

The “Merdeka Belajar” Program as a Change in Education: Bibliometric Analysis

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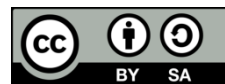
Independent study

Bibliometric analysis

ABSTRACT

In recent years, the “Merdeka belajar” program has attracted the attention of Indonesian experts. This study aims to perform a bibliographic analysis of several scientific journals since the inception of the “Merdeka belajar” program. A database retrieved from the Scopus website was searched for public publication, and the results were analysed with his BibExcel software and visualised with VOSviewer. Articles, including “Merdeka belajar” on the Scopus website, use English as the primary language of publication. The most published results in 2021 were “Merdeka belajar”. Therefore, a systematic review and meta-analysis of the content of the papers and variables identified on this topic is required. This will serve as a starting point for future research in this area and as a basis for future consideration of the development and progress of the “Merdeka belajar” program.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The “Merdeka belajar” policy was introduced at the end of 2019, depending on the performance of Indonesian students as measured by the International Student Assessment (PISA) programme. In 2018, Indonesia's ranking among the 80 countries declined compared to the previous ranking in 2015. In the literacy domain, the score dropped from 397 to 371. The numbers are from 386 to 379. and science 403 to 396 (OECD, 2015, 2018; Thohir dkk., 2021). For this reason, the government plans to improve the quality of primary and secondary schools through this policy: (1) PISA scores were 451 for interest in reading, 407 for numeracy and 414 for science. (2) Three reasonable vocational schools. (3) About 85% attended preschool and 100% attended primary and secondary school. (4) 400,000 new teacher education graduates; (5) 300,000 vocational teachers; (6) 150,000 school principals with experience as driving instructors (Thohir dkk., 2021). The results of this study show that Indonesian students' evaluation results are still low.

This concept was created by Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Makarim to understand and change the perspective of education starting from the progressive philosophy. This is because progressivism is a branch of educational philosophy that assumes that humans have unique and extraordinary abilities that enable them to overcome the various problems that threaten them.

Progressivism also rejects the authoritarian teaching styles prevalent in the past and present. Rigorous education is seen as a hindrance to achieving rational goals because it does not respect human capabilities in the educational process. In education, all elements are viewed as drivers of progress and future progress. For progressivism, therefore, it is not enough for ideas, theories and ideals to be recognized as existing, one must seek out what is there to make sense in order to achieve progress (Mustaghfiroh, 2020).

“Merdeka belajar” is a government policy aimed at significantly improving the quality of learning in order to produce students and graduates who excel in tackling environmental issues in the future (Suyanto, 2020). The essence of “Merdeka belajar” is freedom of thought for students and teachers, so that independent spiritual personalities can be freely expressed and enjoyed exploring knowledge, actions and skills from the field of study. “Merdeka belajar” encourages students to learn and improve, fosters a caring attitude towards the subject they study, develops their confidence and expertise, and helps them adapt easily to the community environment (Ainia, 2020).

At the core of this policy is to allow autonomy for students, teachers and schools in creating educational innovation. This concept adapts to the conditions in which the process of teaching and learning takes place, both in terms of local wisdom, culture, socio-economics and infrastructure. Kompasiana, 2020 states that when “Merdeka belajar” is properly achieved, “Merdeka belajar” activities are created and the school is also called an independent school. Self-directed learning is expected to improve the quality of education in these schools (Anjelina dkk., 2021). So far, the program “Merdeka belajar” has received mixed responses from different educational institutions, facilitating student learning in secondary and tertiary education (Abidah dkk., 2020).

The purpose of this study is to examine how bibliometric tools can analyze published papers. In addition, variables such as number of publications, type of document, country, institution and author are used to provide an overview of ongoing learning independence. The researchers also want to look for patterns found in magazines devoted to “Merdeka belajar”.

2. METHOD

Bibliographic analysis is a special technique for assessing the quality of scientific literature. Analytical review in philosophy is a research method that examines scholarly research and provides more comprehensive and balanced information. Based on article research conducted using his 7 articles on the Scopus website. Includes article title, abstract, and keywords. A study on “Merdeka belajar” is available on the Scopus website for the period 2020-2021. An observation can be made based on this “Merdeka belajar” problem.

A complete record of all six existing documents, including article titles, abstracts, key words, and main conclusions: publication year, journal name and nationality of all authors. A detailed search term related to 'Merdeka belajar' was created to search the Scopus database. PUBYEAR, 2020)) AND (LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, “Indonesia”) or LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, “Malaysia”) or LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, “Thailand”)) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, “ar”)) or LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, “cp”) or LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, “ch”)).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The next step is to find the object. Identification is the first stage. The Scopus website database is searched using “Merdeka belajar” in the search box. This theme database will be released in 2020-2021. The article is then verified against the keyword “Merdeka belajar” on his website on his Scopus. Reports are entered into an Excel spreadsheet and checked for relevance based on criteria. Your search returned 7 articles on the topic “Merdeka belajar”.

Figure 1 shows articles about “Merdeka belajar” from around the world on his website in Scopus. In 2020, the first article containing the term “Merdeka belajar” was published on the Scopus website. Six papers were published in 2021.

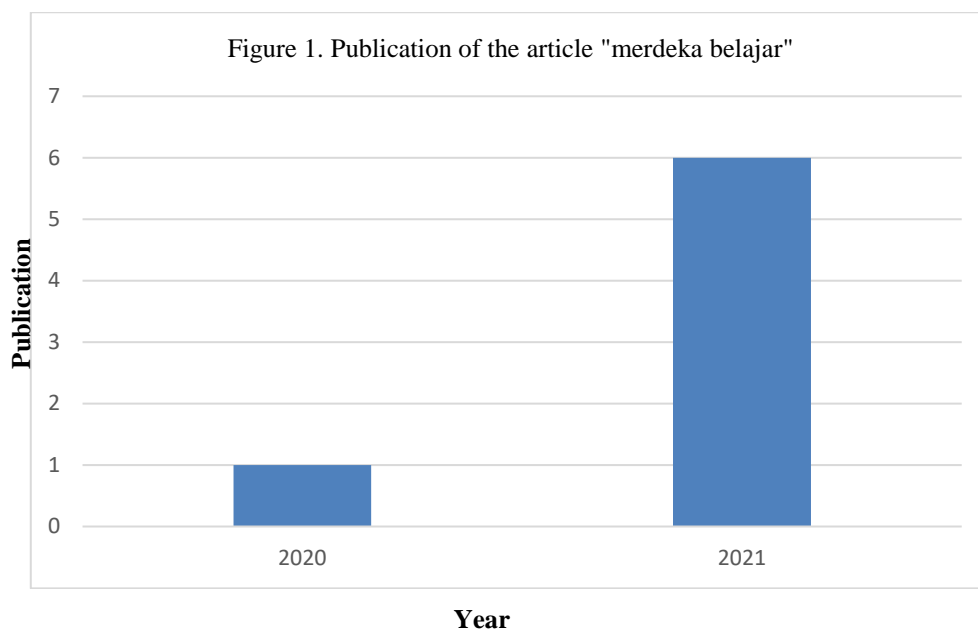
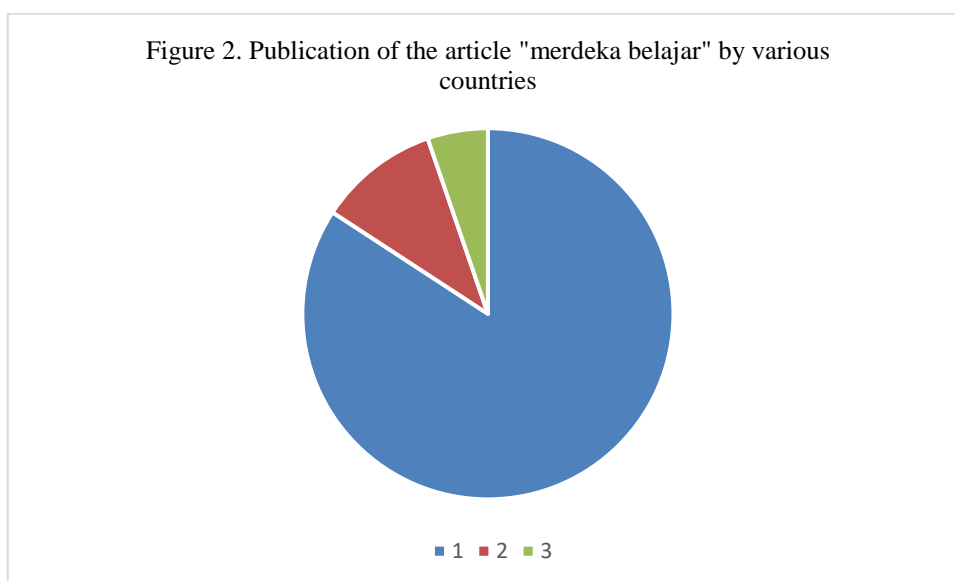
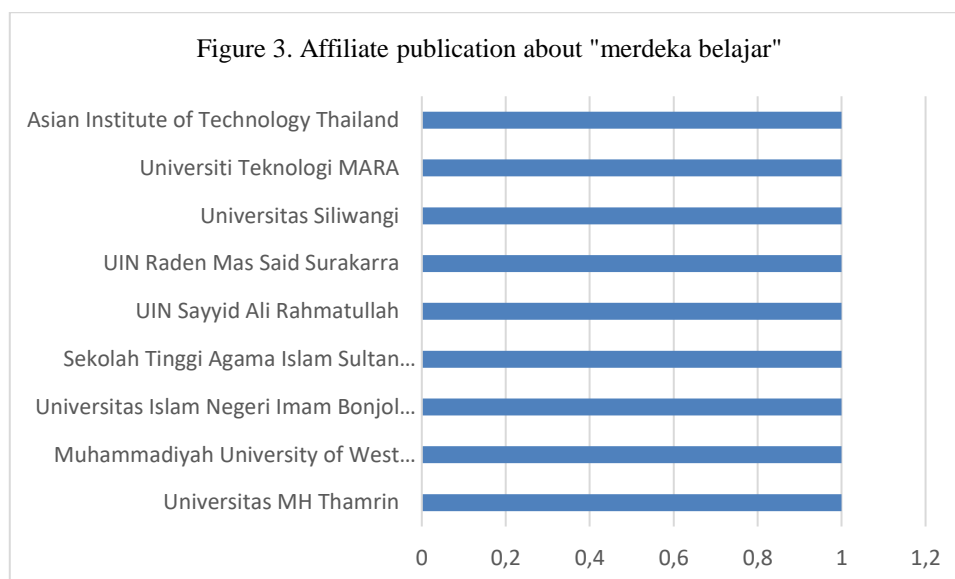


Figure 2 shows the distribution of documents in Scopus-indexed journals from 2020 to 2021. Here is the distribution: Indonesia (16), Malaysia (2), Thailand (1). The theme “Merdeka belajar” is research on the original curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia. The majority of those who participated in this study were from Indonesia.



Scopus categories where the keyword “Merdeka belajar” appears in publications. Figure 3 shows the affiliation of publications on this subject at nine universities.

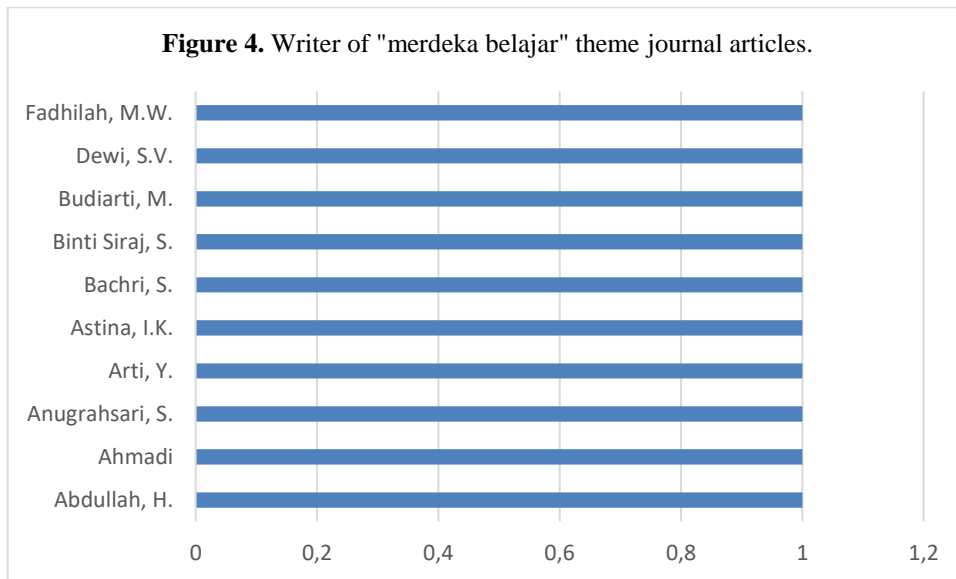


These journals are included in the 1st and 2nd quartiles of the SJR ranking (SCImago Journal & CountryRank). This key figure measures how important and high-quality a trade publication is. Most of the material has been published in Malaysian, Indonesian and United Kingdom journals.

Table 1. Selection of journals with the most publications on “Merdeka belajar”.

Journal	No. of Publication	Quartile	SJR (2020)	H Index	Country
<i>Asian Journal of University Education</i>	1	Q3	0.37	7	Malaysian
<i>Cakrawala Pendidikan</i>	1	Q3	0.24	8	Indonesian
<i>Journal of Management Information and Decision Sciences</i>	1	-	0	9	United Kingdom

Figure 4 shows the researchers conducting research or publishing journal articles on the topic “Merdeka belajar”. The “Merdeka belajar” publications are not described individually in the Scopus database but as partnerships between authors. We placed the individual creator in the first category and related creators in her second category (Ho, 2012). This organization leads a single institutional paper and acts as a foundation of networked authors (Ho, 2013). The early authors of brain research—the people who conduct trials and write papers—are often the most ardent supporters of the effort (Riesenberg, 1990; Ho & Hartley, 2016). A correspondence maker (usually the first maker) will respond to requests for information and copies of important documents (Burman, 1982; Ho & Hartley, 2016). Figure 4 is not the lead author of the joint work. The author's name appears occasionally in his Scopus database containing important “Merdeka belajar” articles.



This part presents some representative ideas related to the subject of the review and selects six articles from three files. Five different thought clusters were discovered during testing of VOSviewer (see Table 2). Figure 5 shows the name of the idea that emerged from the group thickness pointer. In addition, I used the shading code for each category to create a list of thoughts specific to that category. Its purpose is to detect various problems that have been investigated in the past and tested in the future. Figure 5 shows the group thickness. Each meeting has its own color scheme.

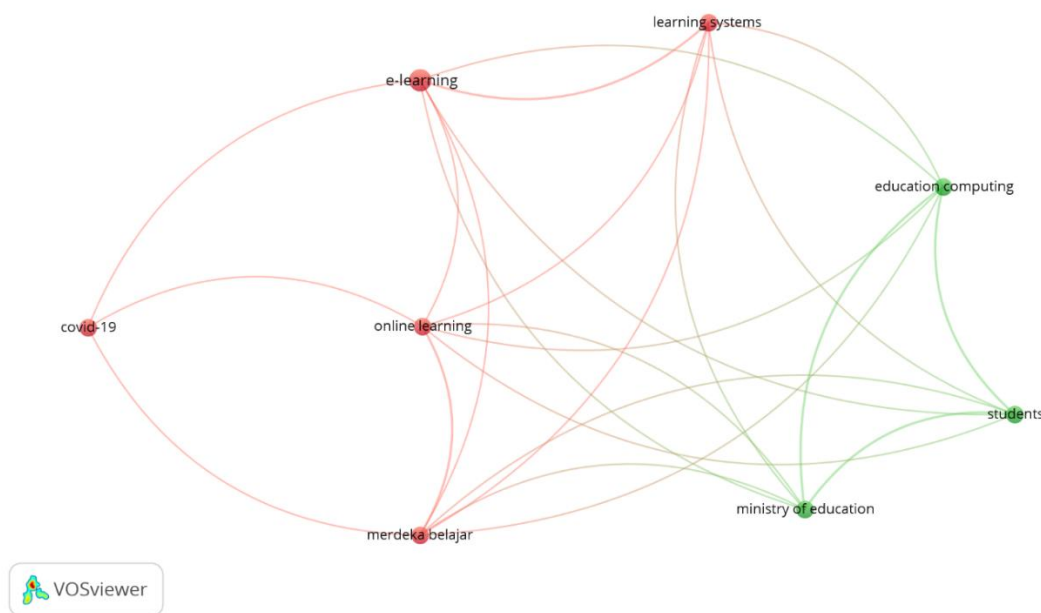


Figure 5. Relation of themes in “Merdeka belajar”.

Figure 5 shows how identification in mapping can help researchers initiate research, especially new ones. People become interested when they find interesting topics in a particular field. This survey can be used to find articles on this topic. I have two clusters: a) Cluster 1 consisting of COVID-19, e-learning, learning systems, “Merdeka belajar” and online learning. b) Cluster 2 consists of Education Informatics, Ministry of Education and Students. All this data is collected through the Scopus website.

Bibliographic analysis shows evolution of distributions associated with strict balance over 2020-2021. In 2021, the number of Global Diary articles and article levels will increase. In 2022, when this article was written, only one song was released on Scopus Records diaries worldwide (Anderson, 2012). As many reviews indicate, the main language was English. The language most commonly used in sales and communication (Curry & Lillis, 2004).

According to several polls and studies on this trait, Indonesia is the country with the highest logic score. This is because the issue of austerity in Indonesia has taken center stage in both print and electronic media. A sociology that focuses on friendly behavioral styles is the most advanced creation in the field. Similarly, some notable diaries can be identified by their frequency of publication and references to many areas of study. That's pretty important too. Table 1 is a list of distributed journals. All journals have equal spreads and only one strictly balanced distribution of articles.

A number of obstacles stand in the way of this research. Search scope is limited to a single database Scopus and set of descriptors for analysis. Every effort has been made to include all terms related to strict controls. Future exploration should equally scale up both investigation duration and data collection. Systematic review and meta-research requirements to subdivide the review content in question and the rationale behind it are also proposed as a forward-looking basis for future research. It serves as a reference point for research in this area and as a basis for future research on its progress and events.

The teacher's perspective on the program "Merdeka belajar" is explored through presentation mapping that sees the teacher from three perspectives. The first policy of "Merdeka belajar" was seen as a criticism of traditional educational institutions. If this policy becomes mainstream, this view will become less acceptable. The reason lies in the modernization of education in the former education system. The two projects are educational innovations aimed at making educational freedom more open. This perspective leads to the idea of progressive or liberal education. A third strategy is to liberate education from social and political shackles and shackles. The "Merdeka belajar" perspective of liberation education offers suggestions for teaching repressed critical pedagogy. The second and his third point of view lectures suggest that Islamic teachers represent a more moderate point of view, but actually want to approach reformed pedagogy rather than think about "Merdeka belajar". It shows what you are thinking (Thohir dkk., 2021).

The political concept "Merdeka belajar" announced by Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Makarim is similar to the concept of education according to John Dewey's Progressive Philosophy. This concept also emphasizes the independence and freedom of educational institutions to maximize the abilities and potential of students who are inherently diverse in their abilities and abilities. Both have the same meaning when the two concepts are formulated. Students should be independent and grow organically. Direct experience is the best stimulus for learning. Teachers must be able to teach and be good facilitators. Educational institutions should become educational laboratories for student transformation. Activities at educational institutions and at home should be coordinated (Mustaghfiroh, 2020).

Difficulties and obstacles in implementing the "Merdeka belajar" project are: a) lack of manpower or trainers. b) lack of training in educational institutions; c) lack of government preparation. Teachers are essential to the success of the "Merdeka belajar" learning process. Teachers did not understand the overall goals and objectives of the program. Therefore, they are not yet independent. The survey confirmed that they had no experience as independent teachers who could create a learning process that offered freedom to their students. The teacher's perception confirms an old Latin saying: *nemo, it wasn't a habit. No one can give you what you don't have.* This means that "Merdeka belajar" needs independent teachers with independence, freedom of thought, creativity, innovation and masters in teaching and teaching skills. Innovation requires the courage and confidence to transform learning processes and breakthroughs that engage students (Sihombing dkk., 2021).

The "Merdeka belajar" was created as a result of an evaluation of the education system and ongoing processes. The aim is to enable students, teachers and even parents to actively participate in fun learning activities. Participate in a fun educational process. In fact, education is not a burden. Overwhelming students with a wide variety of subjects and good grades can stifle their creativity. As a result, teachers who are more involved in administrative tasks and even stand by do not have

free access to the classroom. The “Merdeka belajar” policy is a movement to restore educational literacy in the region. Pedagogical instruction gives freedom for teachers and space for students to be creative in their learning and create a fun learning environment. In fact, educational literacy is always a curiosity, so there is room for creativity in dialogue in communication, and everyone can work together and gain confidence. Educational competence is essential and goes beyond the educational process (Abidin dkk., 2017).

“Merdeka belajar” is a program launched by Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Makarim with the aim of improving the education system in Indonesia. Self-directed study programs are associated with the mission of national education. To produce a new generation of independent people who are endowed not only with intellectual intelligence but also with outstanding qualities such as critical and analytical thinking, a sense of responsibility, discipline and integrity. They should express their thoughts without fear (Khoiri & Zaini, 2021).

Project “Merdeka belajar” is an effective alternative to student management based on the resources that schools have. Technically, however, teachers feel the need to provide clear direction and freedom for socialization structured on the skills and personality of schoolteachers. The use of portfolio tools in learning activities also appears to be prevalent (Prakoso dkk., 2021).

This review included many limitations, such as the single set of targeting features and search descriptors used. Contains all recurring terms related to the work. However, further investigation is hampered by various explanations. With this in mind, the terminology and dataset trails should be developed. It also suggests that systematic reviews and meta-research to develop direct material reviews and items related to this issue may be the subject of future research. This is a reference point for research in this area and may be the basis for future studies on its development and results.

4. CONCLUSION

This research focuses on the “Merdeka Belajar” program which only exists in 2020 and 2021. Bibliometric analysis uses VOSviewer software. The results show that the “Merdeka Belajar” program is an internal program that only exists in Indonesia. This means that this program is not attractive to researchers from outside Indonesia. Even though there is an affiliation with the author or a campus outside Indonesia, the researcher is not the main author.

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