

Mapping Trends in Translation and Interpreting Research in Indonesia (2020–2024)

Pemetaan Tren Penelitian Penerjemahan dan Penjurubahasaan di Indonesia (2020-2024)

Bety Mawarni¹

National Cyber and Crypto Agency
bety.mawarni@bssn.go.id

Received: 19 May 2026 | Last Revised: 9 June 2026 | Accepted: 9 June 2026

Abstract

This study maps the emerging themes and methodological approaches characterizing translation and interpreting (T&I) research published by Indonesian-affiliated authors between 2020 and 2024. A systematic mapping review design was adopted, drawing on Grant and Booth (2009) and Cooper (2016), with data collected from Google Scholar via Publish or Perish and GARUDA using bilingual keyword clusters. Following systematic screening of 1,453 deduplicated records, 753 publications were included in the final corpus. Findings reveal four dominant thematic clusters: machine translation quality evaluation, audiovisual translation, translation techniques and strategies, and cultural and literary translation. Interpreting studies account for less than 9% of the corpus, reflecting not merely a research gap but an institutional failure to nurture interpreting as a distinct academic and professional discipline in Indonesia. Qualitative textual analysis dominates methodologically, with an emerging computational strand concentrated in internationally indexed outlets. The study provides a preliminary baseline map of accessible Indonesian T&I journal literature, with implications for researchers, educators, professional bodies, and policy makers seeking to strengthen the field's scholarly infrastructure.

Keywords

Translation studies, interpreting studies, Indonesia, mapping review, research mapping, trend analysis

¹ Bety Mawarni, Junior Translator, National Cyber and Crypto Agency, Depok



Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan tema-tema yang sedang berkembang serta pendekatan metodologis yang menjadi ciri penelitian penerjemahan dan penjurubahasaan yang dipublikasikan oleh penulis berafiliasi Indonesia antara tahun 2020 hingga 2024. Desain pemetaan sistematis diadopsi dengan mengacu pada Grant dan Booth (2009) serta Cooper (2016), dengan data dikumpulkan dari Google Scholar melalui Publish or Perish dan GARUDA menggunakan klaster kata kunci bilingual. Setelah penyaringan sistematis terhadap 1.453 hasil yang telah dideduplikasi, sebanyak 753 publikasi dimasukkan ke dalam korpus akhir. Berdasarkan temuan, terdapat empat klaster tematik yang dominan: evaluasi kualitas penerjemahan mesin, penerjemahan audiovisual, teknik dan strategi penerjemahan, serta penerjemahan budaya dan sastra. Kajian penjurubahasaan hanya mencakup kurang dari 9% korpus, yang mencerminkan bukan hanya kesenjangan penelitian, melainkan kegagalan institusional dalam mengembangkan penjurubahasaan sebagai disiplin akademik dan profesional tersendiri di Indonesia. Metodologi didominasi analisis tekstual kualitatif, dengan strand komputasional terkonsentrasi pada jurnal-jurnal terindeks internasional. Penelitian ini memberikan peta awal literatur jurnal penerjemahan dan penjurubahasaan di Indonesia, dengan implikasi bagi peneliti, pendidik, lembaga profesi, dan pemangku kebijakan dalam upaya memperkuat infrastruktur keilmuan bidang tersebut.

Kata Kunci

Kajian terjemahan, kajian penjurubahasaan, Indonesia, pemetaan sistematis, pemetaan penelitian, analisis tren

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Translation and interpreting (T&I) are no longer peripheral professional services — they are infrastructural. In a country of over 700 living languages, where a single court proceeding, medical consultation, or international negotiation can hinge on the precision of a rendered utterance or text, the work of translators and interpreters is not merely communicative but consequential (Zein et al., 2020). Yet for all its practical centrality in Indonesian public and professional life, T&I as a field of scholarly inquiry in Indonesia remains incompletely understood — not because the research does not exist, but because a comprehensive and systematic map of it has not yet been established.

The professionalization of T&I in Indonesia has accelerated in recent years, marked by the development of formal translator and

interpreter certification programs, the establishment of professional associations, and the integration of T&I training into higher education curricula across the country (SEAProTI, 2025; Himpunan Penerjemah Indonesia [HPI], 2024). This institutional growth reflects a broader national imperative: as Indonesia deepens its engagement in ASEAN diplomatic forums, expands its digital economy across multilingual markets, and strengthens its public health and legal systems — all of which depend on accurate and culturally sensitive language mediation — the demand for professionally trained and research-informed translators and interpreters has never been more urgent. Despite this, the scholarly agenda driving T&I education and professional development in Indonesia has not yet been comprehensively mapped, leaving educators, practitioners, and policy makers without a clear evidence base for understanding what the field knows, where it is headed, and what it still needs.

This gap is compounded by a structural problem in how Indonesian T&I scholarship is indexed and accessed. A significant proportion of research produced by Indonesian-affiliated authors is published in local journals and institutional repositories that are not indexed in major international databases such as Scopus or Web of Science (Kemdiktisaintek, 2026; Portal Garuda, 2023). As a result, existing mapping studies and bibliometric analyses of T&I research at the regional or global level tend to underrepresent or entirely omit Indonesian contributions, creating a distorted picture of the field's development in this context (Ahn & Suh, 2023; Barathayomi et al., 2025). To illustrate the scale of this structural exclusion: of the thousands of journals registered in SINTA (Science and Technology Index), Indonesia's national research indexing system, only approximately 251 journals are indexed in Scopus as of April 2026, meaning the vast majority of Indonesian T&I scholarship — including postgraduate theses deposited in institutional repositories — remains entirely invisible to international mapping studies.

A closer examination of the available literature reveals two recurring and interrelated concerns that sharpen this gap further. *First*, research on interpreting remains markedly underrepresented relative to translation research — a pattern observed in other national and regional contexts but particularly pronounced in Indonesia, where interpreting practice is widespread yet scholarly attention to it remains limited (Suryadi et al., 2025). *Second*, translation research in Indonesia has tended to concentrate on classical theoretical frameworks and text-based analyses, with comparatively little attention given to applied, practice-oriented, or pedagogical questions that are directly relevant to the realities of the profession (Dewi et al., 2019). Together, these tendencies suggest a field that is growing in volume but may not yet be developing in directions that fully reflect the needs and complexities of T&I practice in Indonesia.

It is against this backdrop that the present study is situated. This study aims to map the emerging themes and methodological approaches characterizing T&I research produced in Indonesia between 2020 and 2024. Specifically, it seeks to answer the following research questions: (1) What themes emerge from T&I research published in Indonesia between 2020 and 2024? (2) What methodological approaches characterize this body of scholarship?

1.2. Literature Review

1.2.1. Mapping Studies and Bibliometric Analyses of T&I Research

The systematic mapping of T&I scholarship has emerged as an important strand of meta-research within the field, offering evidence-based accounts of how research agendas have developed across national, regional, and thematic contexts. Bibliometric and mapping studies have been conducted across various national and regional contexts — including Saudi Arabia (Alangari, 2024), the Gulf Cooperation Council states (Alyami & Qassem, 2024), and the broader Arabic-speaking world (Qobti & Almohaimeed, 2024) — revealing patterns of institutional concentration, thematic dominance, and methodological preference that vary considerably across regions. Most

recently, Brashi (2025) conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of T&I research from 2015 to 2025 using Scopus and Web of Science, identifying 2021 as the most prolific year and observing a sustained scholarly interest in traditional translation models alongside the rise of emerging areas such as artificial intelligence integration, corpus linguistics, and community interpreting. While Brashi's study provides a valuable global reference point and shares a broadly overlapping timeframe with the present study, it relies exclusively on internationally indexed databases, which means Indonesian scholarly output — the focus of the present study — is largely absent from its findings. This gap makes a direct comparison between global trends identified by Brashi (2025) and the trends emerging from Indonesian institutional contexts a productive analytical frame for the Discussion section of the present study.

In the Southeast Asian context specifically, such mapping efforts remain limited, and where they exist, they tend to rely on internationally indexed databases that systematically underrepresent locally published scholarship (Barathayomi et al., 2025). Examples include Ngoc and Barrot's (2022) bibliometric study of English Language Teaching across ten Southeast Asian countries and Mirmani's (2024) mapping of library and information science trends in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand — both of which drew exclusively on LISTA or Scopus data, thereby overlooking national repositories and the substantial body of locally published work they contain. A recurring finding across mapping studies in different national contexts is that certain language pairs and translation traditions remain consistently understudied relative to their cultural and social significance — with non-Western language pairs, indigenous translation traditions, and religious translation practices identified as structural blind spots in the international research agenda (Madrah et al., 2021; O'Sullivan, 2012). This methodological limitation is particularly consequential for countries like Indonesia, where a significant proportion of scholarly output

circulates through national platforms rather than international journals and where postgraduate theses, a substantial source of original T&I inquiry, are deposited in institutional repositories entirely outside the reach of Scopus or Web of Science. A mapping study that deliberately draws on national sources such as Google Scholar and GARUDA is therefore not a methodological compromise but a corrective measure, one that takes seriously the full extent of Indonesian T&I scholarship rather than the internationally visible fraction of it.

1.2.2. Translation and Interpreting as Academic Disciplines

As academic disciplines, Translation Studies and Interpreting Studies have expanded considerably over the past few decades, producing a rich and diverse body of scholarship that spans theoretical frameworks, empirical investigations, and professional practice (Munday, 2022; Pöchhacker, 2023). Translation Studies has evolved from a primarily linguistic and literary enterprise into a multidisciplinary field engaging with cultural theory, cognitive science, corpus linguistics, and technology, while interpreting studies has developed its own distinct research agenda addressing the cognitive, interactional, and institutional dimensions of oral language mediation (Pöchhacker, 2023). Research methodologies in T&I have similarly diversified over time, with scholars increasingly advocating for empirical, corpus-based, and mixed methods approaches alongside the qualitative textual analysis that has historically dominated the field (Saldanha & O'Brien, 2013). Nevertheless, surveys of published T&I research across national contexts consistently show that qualitative text-based analysis remains the dominant methodological choice, reflecting both the field's humanistic roots and the publication patterns of national T&I journals (Li et al., 2014). In Indonesia, this expansion is particularly significant given the country's extraordinary linguistic diversity, its growing participation in regional and international affairs, and the increasing demand for professional translators and interpreters across legal, medical, educational, and diplomatic settings (Zein et al., 2020).

1.2.3. The Underrepresentation of Interpreting Research

A recurring concern in the T&I research landscape is the disproportionate attention given to translation relative to interpreting. While Translation Studies have produced an extensive and theoretically sophisticated body of work, interpreting studies has historically occupied a smaller and less visible space within the broader disciplinary conversation (Pöchhacker, 2023). In the Indonesian context, this imbalance is particularly pronounced. Court interpreting in Indonesian legal proceedings — where accuracy can directly affect the outcome of a trial — remains almost entirely unstudied in the domestic scholarly literature (Suryadi et al., 2025). For instance, Nugroho & Johanes (2024) highlights the urgency of standardized regional language interpreters in judicial processes amid widespread local language use, while Attruk (2025) conducts an interdisciplinary review exposing the lack of professional standards and training — both underscoring the field’s nascent state. Similarly, community interpreting in healthcare settings, where patients from minority language communities often rely on informal or untrained interpreters, remains an underexamined area despite clear implications for access, safety, and quality of care (Al Shamsi et al., 2020; Kale & Syed, 2010). The mismatch between the social importance of interpreting in healthcare and the comparatively limited research attention it has received remains a significant limitation in the field.

1.2.4. Theoretical Orientation versus Applied Focus in Indonesian Translation Research

Indonesian translation research has tended to concentrate on classical theoretical frameworks — particularly those drawn from Newmark, Nida, and Catford — applied to the analysis of translated texts across literary, religious, and legal domains (Dewi et al., 2019). While this theoretical orientation has produced valuable insights into the linguistic and cultural dimensions of translation in the Indonesian context, it has come at the cost of applied and practice-oriented

inquiry. Questions of translator and interpreter training, professional competence, workplace conditions, technology integration, and community interpreting — all of which are directly relevant to the development of the profession in Indonesia — remain comparatively underexplored. This concern is not unique to Indonesia: scholars in other national contexts have similarly observed that translation studies risks becoming methodologically stagnant when research training reproduces the same analytical frameworks generation after generation without engaging with theoretical innovation (Munday et al., 2021; Olohan, 2016). The present study is positioned to document this imbalance empirically and to provide the field with an evidence base from which more practice-oriented and pedagogically relevant research agendas can be developed.

1.3. Research Method

1.3.1. Research Design

This study adopts a systematic mapping review design with trend analysis. Mapping reviews are designed to systematically chart the volume, distribution, and characteristics of a body of literature without imposing the quality appraisal requirements of a systematic review or the database dependency of a bibliometric study (Grant & Booth, 2009; Cooper, 2016). This design was selected for three reasons. *First*, a substantial proportion of Indonesian T&I scholarship is published in local journals, and institutional repositories are not indexed in databases such as Scopus or Web of Science, meaning a bibliometric approach would produce a structurally incomplete corpus. *Second*, the study's goal is to produce a descriptive map of the landscape of Indonesian T&I scholarship — including work produced by smaller regional institutions, postgraduate students, and practitioners — rather than to synthesize findings or draw causal conclusions. *Third*, the mapping review design is directly proportionate to the study's resource constraints and two-month timeline, offering a rigorous yet feasible framework for a solo researcher. The design is supplemented by descriptive trend analysis to track patterns in

publication volume, thematic distribution, and methodological approaches across the 2020–2024 period.

1.3.2. Data Source

The corpus for this study was drawn from two complementary platforms. Google Scholar served as the primary source due to its broad indexing of Indonesian academic output across publication types, including internationally published articles, locally published journals, conference papers, and postgraduate theses. This was supplemented by GARUDA (Garba Rujukan Digital), the Indonesian government’s national academic portal, which indexes local journals and institutional repositories that may not appear in Google Scholar. The deliberate use of these sources, rather than Scopus or Web of Science, reflects the study’s commitment to capturing the full breadth of Indonesian T&I scholarship. The limitations of both platforms — including inconsistent metadata in Google Scholar and incomplete institutional coverage in GARUDA — are acknowledged and addressed through careful manual screening at the study selection stage.

Publications were eligible for inclusion if they met all of the following criteria: at least one author was affiliated with an Indonesian institution; translation and/or interpreting constituted the primary focus of the work; the work was published or deposited between January 2020 and December 2024; the work was written in English or Indonesian; and the full text was retrievable for verification and data extraction.

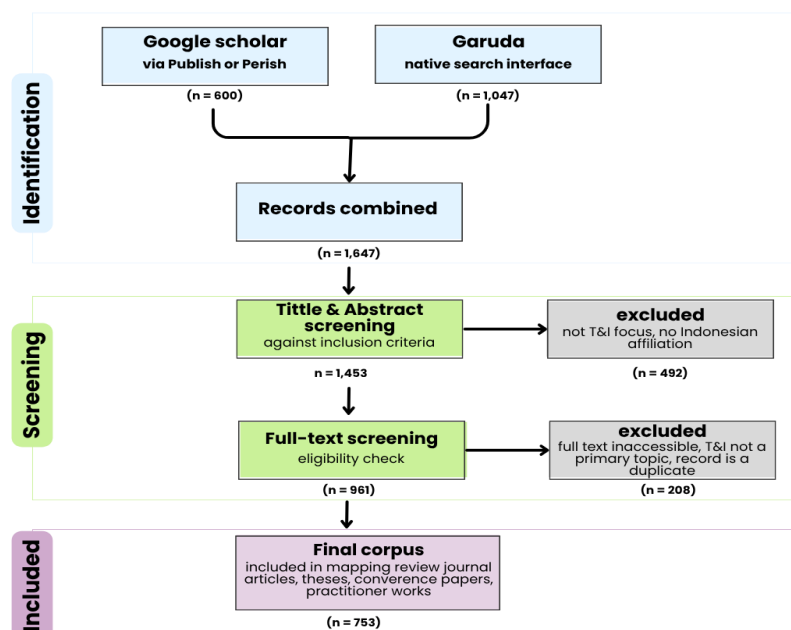
Regarding publication types, this study distinguishes between formally peer-reviewed publications and grey literature, both of which are included but treated as distinct categories. Peer-reviewed journal articles constitute the primary category of formally published academic output. In contrast, theses and dissertations are classified as grey literature because they are produced outside traditional commercial or formal peer-review publishing channels, although they remain substantial scholarly contributions. Grey literature is typically defined as material produced outside conventional publishing routes

and not subjected to formal peer review, and it includes theses and dissertations among other research outputs (Purdue OWL, n.d.; APA Style, n.d.; RMIT University Library, n.d.). These works are included because they reflect the intellectual development of the field within Indonesian academic institutions at the postgraduate level, a layer of output that is often missed by studies relying only on international databases. Conference papers occupy an intermediate position: while formally published in proceedings, peer review standards vary considerably across venues. Practitioner-authored works appearing in academic or professional outlets are also included where they meet the remaining eligibility criteria. Publication type is recorded as a variable in the data extraction form, allowing findings to be disaggregated by category in the analysis. Records were excluded if T&I appeared only incidentally — for instance, where a linguistics or literature paper references a translated text without making translation or interpreting itself as an object of study — if authorship was unidentifiable, if the record was a duplicate, or if the full text was inaccessible.

1.3.3. Data Collection

To support replicability, the data collection process followed a sequential series of documented steps, outlined below. A visual overview of the completed process is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Data Collection Flowchart



Step 1 — Pilot searching. Prior to formal data collection, pilot searches were conducted across both platforms using a subset of keywords to test the sensitivity of the search strings, calibrate screening thresholds, and identify any gaps in keyword coverage. Based on pilot results, screening was set at a maximum of 200 results per broad keyword cluster (Clusters 1 and 3) and 100 results per subfield-specific cluster (Clusters 2 and 4), reflecting the point at which results became consistently irrelevant to the study’s scope.

Step 2 — Keyword cluster construction. Keywords were organized into four clusters covering core T&I terminology and subfield-specific terms in both English and Indonesian, as detailed in Table 1. The term “Indonesia” was appended to all Google Scholar search strings as a broad contextual marker to increase the likelihood of retrieving Indonesian-produced work, an approach preferred over specific institutional name markers which would risk excluding the output of smaller or lesser-known institutions.

Table 1. Keyword Clusters

Cluster	Label	Language	Search Terms
1.	Core T&I	English	translation OR interpreting OR translator OR interpreter OR “translation studies” OR “interpreting studies”
2.	Subfield T&I	English	“literary translation” OR “machine translation” OR “audiovisual translation” OR “community interpreting” OR “court interpreting” OR “conference interpreting” OR “consecutive interpreting” OR “simultaneous interpreting” OR “remote interpreting” OR “interpreter training” OR “translator training” OR “translator competence” OR “interpreter competence”
3.	Core T&I	Indonesian	penerjemahan OR penjurubahasaan OR penerjemah OR “juru bahasa”
4.	Subfield T&I	Indonesian	“penerjemahan sastra” OR “penerjemahan audiovisual” OR

Cluster	Label	Language	Search Terms
			“penerjemahan mesin” OR “penjurubahasaan konsekutif” OR “penjurubahasaan simultan” OR “kompetensi penerjemah” OR “kompetensi juru bahasa” OR “kualitas terjemahan” OR “penjurubahasaan isyarat” OR “penjurubahasaan pengadilan” OR “penjurubahasaan konferensi” “pelatihan penerjemah” OR “pelatihan juru bahasa”

Source: Author’s data

Step 3 — Search execution via Publish or Perish. Google Scholar searches were conducted using Publish or Perish (version 8, Harzing, 2007), a bibliographic software that harvests and exports Google Scholar results in structured, downloadable formats suitable for systematic screening and data extraction. Publish or Perish was selected as the primary search tool because it allows for consistent, reproducible retrieval of Google Scholar results in exportable formats, minimizing manual transcription errors and enabling direct import into the screening tracker. While Publish or Perish supports multiple database sources, this study used it exclusively to access Google Scholar, as this platform provided the broadest coverage of Indonesian academic output across publication types including locally indexed journals and postgraduate theses. GARUDA searches were conducted through the platform’s native search interface, with results manually recorded in the same tracker. No contextual marker was required for GARUDA searches, as the platform indexes Indonesian institutional output exclusively. All search runs were documented in a search log recording the date, platform, cluster, exact string used, and number of results retrieved. The search covered publications from January 2020 to December 2024.

Step 4 — Title and abstract screening. Retrieved records were screened by the author herself against the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. At this stage, records were assessed based on title

and abstract only. Records that clearly did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded, while records where eligibility was uncertain were retained for full-text review.

Step 5 — Full-text screening. Full texts of all retained records were retrieved and assessed to confirm eligibility, including verification of Indonesian institutional affiliation through author affiliation statements in the full text, journal page, or institutional repository entry.

Step 6 — Consistency checking. The single-reviewer approach is acknowledged as a limitation inherent to the study's scope and resource constraints. To partially mitigate this, upon completion of each screening stage the reviewer re-examined a 10% random sample of included records, focusing on whether eligibility decisions were consistent with the stated criteria.

1.3.4. Data Analysis

Data were extracted from all included publications using a standardized extraction form capturing the following variables: author name(s), institutional affiliation, publication year, publication type, journal or outlet name, language of publication, thematic cluster, T&I mode, theoretical framework where applicable, and key findings summary. All data extraction was performed by the author.

Thematic mapping employed a combined approach: keyword frequency analysis was first applied to titles and abstracts to provide an initial quantitative overview of dominant topics across the corpus, followed by inductive thematic categorization in which each publication was assigned to one broad thematic cluster based on its primary topic. Thematic categorization was performed by the author, with an AI-assisted tool used to support preliminary grouping of extracted keywords and topics following data collection. All AI-assisted outputs were reviewed, verified, and finalized by the author to ensure analytical integrity. Themes were then derived descriptively from patterns observed across thematic clusters, producing a higher-order account of how topics are distributed across the corpus and what that

distribution reveals about the field's current shape. All analytical decisions, including thematic categorization of borderline cases and the rationale for cluster assignments, were documented in the extraction form to ensure transparency and auditability throughout the analytical process, and will be reported in full in the Discussion section.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Overview of the Corpus

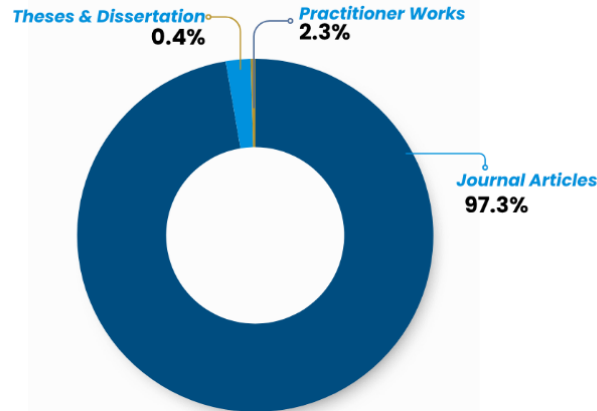
A total of 1,647 raw records were retrieved across all search runs, comprising 1,047 records from GARUDA and 600 from Google Scholar via Publish or Perish. Following deduplication, 1,453 records were submitted to title and abstract screening, of which 961 were retained for full-text review. After full-text screening against the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria, 753 publications were included in the final corpus — 476 sourced from GARUDA and 277 from Google Scholar. The primary reasons for exclusion at the full-text stage were inaccessibility of the full text and T&I not constituting the primary focus of the work, the latter applying particularly to machine translation papers published in information and communication technology journals where translation served as a computational benchmark rather than a research subject.

2.2. Distribution by Publication Type

Journal articles constitute the overwhelming majority of the corpus, accounting for 733 publications (97.3%). Practitioner works represent a small but notable proportion at 17 publications (2.3%), reflecting applied and training-oriented contributions to the field. Theses and dissertations account for only 3 publications (0.4%), and no conference papers or proceedings met the inclusion criteria. The near-total dominance of journal articles reflects the indexing priorities of both GARUDA and Google Scholar, which favor formally published outputs over institutional repositories where theses are typically deposited. The virtual absence of theses from the final corpus —

despite their explicit inclusion in the eligibility criteria — suggests that postgraduate T&I research in Indonesia remains largely inaccessible through the two platforms used, a limitation acknowledged further in the Discussion.

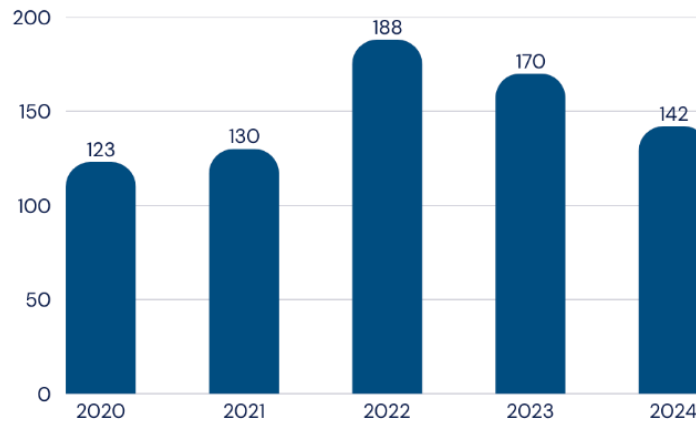
Figure 2. T&I Research Distribution by Publication Type



2.3. Publication Trends

Publication trends from 2020-2024 reveal a robust growth trajectory in Indonesian T&I research, rising from 123 publications in 2020 to a peak of 188 in 2022 (+53%), before stabilizing at 170 (2023) and 142 (2024). This pattern reflects the post-COVID academic publishing surge combined with the global AI/machine translation boom, particularly evident in the heavy focus on Google Translate, ChatGPT, and Netflix subtitle analysis during the 2022 peak. The absence of a consistent upward trend may reflect variability in indexing completeness across years rather than actual fluctuations in scholarly output, particularly for more recent years where records may not yet have been fully indexed by GARUDA or Google Scholar at the time of data collection.

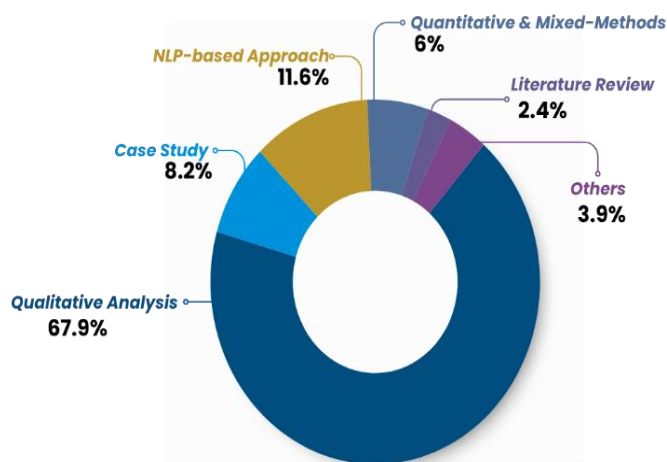
Figure 3. T&I Publication Trends in Indonesia (2020 – 2024)



2.4. Distribution by Research Methodology

Qualitative analysis is the dominant methodological approach in the corpus, accounting for 512 publications (67.9%). Case study designs constitute the second largest category at 62 publications (8.2%), followed by computational and NLP-based approaches at 87 publications (11.6%), quantitative and mixed methods at 45 publications (6.0%), literature review-based studies at 18 publications (2.4%), and other or unclear methodologies at 29 publications (3.9%). A notable platform difference is observable in the methodological distribution: computational and NLP-based studies are more heavily concentrated in Google Scholar records (38% of Google Scholar corpus) compared to GARUDA records (22% of GARUDA corpus), reflecting the stronger representation of technology-oriented T&I research in internationally indexed outlets. Conversely, GARUDA records show a higher proportion of pedagogy and training-focused studies (12%) compared to Google Scholar (8%), suggesting that applied and classroom-linked T&I research circulates predominantly through national platforms.

Figure 4. Distribution by Methodology



2.5. Thematic Distribution

Table 2 presents the frequency distribution of publications across thematic clusters. Machine translation (MT) quality emerges as the single largest theme, accounting for 189 publications (25.1%), followed by audiovisual translation at 142 publications (18.9%), translation techniques and strategies at 134 publications (17.8%), and cultural and literary translation at 98 publications (13.0%). Interpreting studies constitute 67 publications (8.9%), training and pedagogy 45 publications (6.0%), and other specialized translation domains 78 publications (10.4%).

Table 2. Theme Frequency Distribution

Theme	Count	%	Examples
Machine Translation	189	25.1%	Google Translate accuracy, ChatGPT translation, BLEU scores
Audiovisual Translation	142	18.9%	Subtitle analysis (Netflix films), <i>takarir</i> film, dubbing
Translation Techniques/ Strategies	134	17.8%	<i>Teknik penerjemahan, metode penerjemahan, strategi</i>
Cultural/ Literary Translation	98	13.0%	Novel translation, idiom analysis, cultural terms
Interpreting Studies	67	8.9%	Consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting
Training/ Pedagogy	45	6.0%	<i>Pelatihan penerjemahan, pendampingan</i> , teaching methods
Other Specialized	78	10.4%	Religious texts, legal translation, technical domains

Source: Author's data

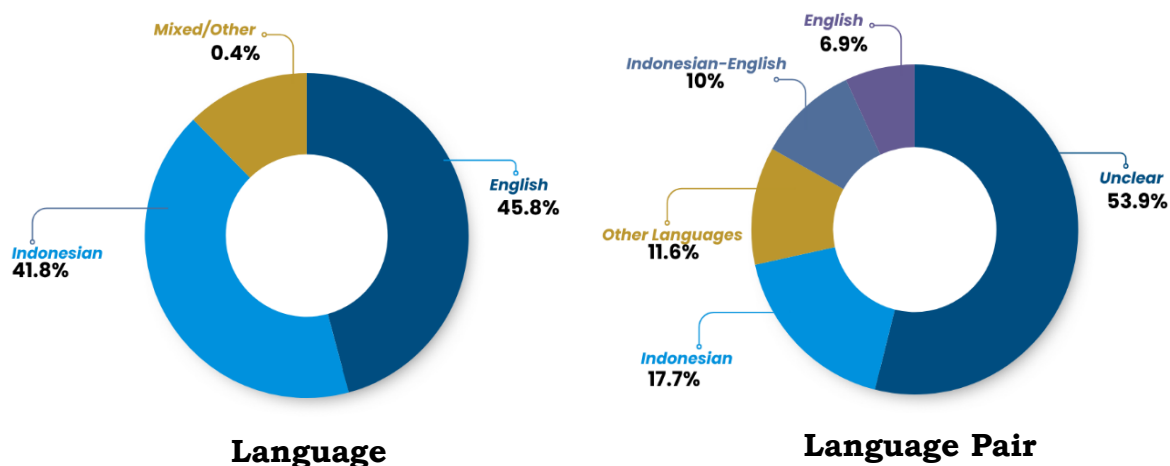
Within the MT quality cluster, representative works include studies evaluating the accuracy of Google Translate and ChatGPT outputs across text types, with titles such as *Machine Translation in Website Localization: Assessing Its Translation Quality for Language Learning* (2022) and *Analisis Perbandingan Teknik Penerjemahan Arab-Indonesia pada Google Translate dan ChatGPT* (2024), illustrating the field's focus on comparative evaluation of MT systems. The audiovisual translation cluster is dominated by subtitle analysis of streaming content, with Netflix productions featuring prominently — representative titles include *Speech Acts Equivalence of Audiovisual Translation on Enola Holmes Netflix Movie Subtitle* (2022) and *Analisis Kualitas Terjemahan Subtitle Serial Netflix Alice in Borderland* (2023). The translation techniques and strategies cluster reflect the enduring influence of classical frameworks, with papers applying Molina and Albir's taxonomy and Newmark's procedural model to diverse text types. The cultural and literary translation cluster encompasses novel translation, idiom analysis, and cultural term rendering, with a notable subcluster of Arabic-Indonesian religious translation including Quranic, hadith, Pegon script, and *Kitab Kuning* studies — a reflection of Indonesia's Islamic scholarly tradition. Within interpreting studies, representative works include *Cognitive Load of Indonesian Interpreters in Simultaneous Interpreting with a Computer-Assisted Tool* (2023), *Assessing Students' Consecutive Interpreting Quality (A Case Study in English Literature Study Program)* (2022), and *Consecutive Interpreting Strategies in the Police Field Investigation* (2023), demonstrating that while interpreting research is limited in volume, it is methodologically focused and professionally oriented. The training and pedagogy cluster includes practitioner-authored works such as *Pelatihan Penerjemahan Lisan (Interpreting) Simultan dan Konsektif* (2023) and *Efektivitas Penggunaan Online Dictionary Sebagai Media Pembelajaran Penerjemahan* (2022), reflecting applied and classroom-linked contributions to the field.

2.6. Distribution by Language and Language Pair

The corpus shows a broadly balanced distribution between English and Indonesian as languages of publication. English-language publications account for 345 records (45.8%), Indonesian-language publications for 315 records (41.8%), and mixed or other language publications for 93 records (12.4%). The mixed and other category reflects bilingual titles, Arabic-focused studies, Japanese-focused studies, and records with substantial code-mixing in their metadata.

Regarding language pairs studied, 406 records (53.9%) could not be classified as language pairs were not explicitly stated. Indonesian-language studies — examining translation within or from Indonesian without a specified second language — account for 133 records (17.7%), followed by other language combinations involving Arabic, Japanese, and French at 87 records (11.6%), Indonesian-English pairs at 75 records (10.0%), and English-only studies at 52 records (6.9%). The high proportion of unclear classifications reflects the title-based nature of the language pair extraction, which is acknowledged as a limitation of the extraction methodology.

Figure 5. Distribution by Language & Language Pair



2.7. The Dominance of Machine Translation and Its Implications

The emergence of machine translation quality as the single largest thematic cluster — accounting for one in four publications in the corpus — is the most striking finding of this study and one that

was not fully anticipated at the outset. This finding confirms and extends the global trend identified by Brashi (2025), who observed a sustained rise in AI and technology-related translation research across internationally indexed databases between 2015 and 2025. That Indonesian scholarship mirrors this global trajectory is significant, suggesting that the field is not developing in isolation but is actively responding to the same technological disruptions reshaping translation practice worldwide — particularly the widespread availability of tools such as Google Translate and ChatGPT.

However, the character of Indonesian machine translation research warrants closer examination. The representative titles in this cluster — focusing on accuracy evaluation, comparative assessment of MT outputs, and BLEU score analysis — suggest that Indonesian researchers are primarily engaging with machine translation as an object of quality evaluation rather than as a site of theoretical or methodological innovation. This positions Indonesian MT research largely within a practitioner-relevant but theoretically conservative tradition, one that asks “how good is the output?” rather than “what does MT mean for the practice and theory of translation?” Whether this reflects the field’s maturity, its pedagogical orientation, or the institutional pressures facing Indonesian researchers is a question that future studies with primary data could productively investigate.

The unexpected prominence of machine translation papers from IT and NLP journals — many of which were excluded at the full-text screening stage — also signals a boundary question that the field has not yet resolved: where does computational linguistics end and translation studies begin? The volume of excluded MT papers in this study suggests that future mapping studies would benefit from developing more explicit and operationalized inclusion criteria for computational translation research — for instance, distinguishing between studies where translation quality is evaluated from the perspective of human communication and meaning-making, and studies where translation output serves primarily as a dataset for

algorithmic evaluation. Incorporating this distinction as a formal criterion in future reviews would produce a more precise and theoretically coherent corpus of Indonesian T&I scholarship at the computational frontier.

2.8. The Prominence of Audiovisual Translation

The prominence of audiovisual translation as the second largest thematic cluster at 18.9% — and specifically the concentration of subtitle analysis studies focused on Netflix productions — is one of the most distinctive and unexpected characteristics of the corpus. The recurrence of specific titles such as *Enola Holmes*, *Alice in Borderland*, and comparable streaming productions across multiple papers suggests that the availability of accessible, high-profile, and linguistically rich subtitle content has created a de facto shared corpus for Indonesian T&I researchers, particularly at the postgraduate level. The rapid global expansion of streaming platforms since 2019 has substantially increased the volume and visibility of subtitled content available to researchers and audiences alike, creating new and accessible sites of translation practice for academic investigation (Valdeón, 2022; Wang & Daghigh, 2024). This pattern reflects both wider global trends in audiovisual translation research and the enduring methodological comfort of text-based analysis as the dominant research approach in Indonesian T&I scholarship (Pérez-González, 2014; Saldanha & O'Brien, 2013).

While the volume of audiovisual translation research is encouraging as evidence of the field's engagement with contemporary media and professional practice, the concentration on a small number of recurring source texts raises questions about the diversity and cumulative value of the research being produced. When multiple studies analyze the same subtitle file using the same theoretical framework, the field risks producing findings that are locally illustrative but not collectively generative — a concern echoed in broader critiques of replication without theoretical advancement in translation studies research (Olohan, 2019; Williams & Chesterman, 2002). This is a

pattern worth flagging for T&I educators and journal editors as they consider what kinds of contributions add most cumulative value to the existing literature.

2.9. Classical Frameworks and the Theory-Practice Gap

The combined dominance of translation techniques and strategies (17.8%) and cultural and literary translation (13.0%) — alongside the methodological dominance of qualitative textual analysis (68.0%) — confirms the pattern identified in the Literature Review: Indonesian T&I scholarship remains heavily anchored in classical theoretical frameworks applied to text analysis. Newmark, Molina and Albir, and Nida continue to provide the primary analytical vocabulary for the largest portion of the corpus, a finding consistent with Dewi et al.'s (2019) characterization of Indonesian translation research as theoretically conservative.

The implications of this pattern are twofold. On one hand, the sustained application of established frameworks to diverse text types — religious texts, legal documents, literary novels, film subtitles — reflects a productive and pedagogically valuable tradition that builds cumulative knowledge about how translation works across Indonesian textual contexts. On the other hand, the relative scarcity of studies engaging with more recent theoretical developments — such as cognitive approaches to translation, sociological frameworks, or corpus-based descriptive studies — suggests that the field's theoretical horizon may be narrowing at precisely the moment when its professional landscape is diversifying. This concern is not unique to Indonesia: scholars in other national contexts have similarly observed that translation studies risks becoming methodologically stagnant when research training reproduces the same analytical frameworks generation after generation without engaging with theoretical innovation (Munday et al., 2021; Olohan, 2016). The training and pedagogy cluster's modest share of 6.0% further underscores the gap between what is being researched and what practitioners and educators most immediately need.

2.10. Arabic and Islamic Scholarship as an Underacknowledged

Dimension

One of the most unexpected findings of this study is the prominence of Arabic-Indonesian translation research — encompassing Quranic translation, hadith studies, Pegon script, and Kitab Kuning — within both the cultural and literary translation cluster and the other specialized domains category. This subcluster was not anticipated in the study's framing and is not reflected in the existing mapping literature on Indonesian T&I scholarship, suggesting that it has been systematically overlooked in previous accounts of the field. Its prominence in the present corpus — accessible precisely because this study drew on GARUDA rather than exclusively on internationally indexed databases — reflects the deep integration of Islamic scholarly traditions into Indonesian academic culture and the significant translation labor involved in transmitting classical Arabic religious texts into Indonesian language and script contexts.

This finding connects to a broader pattern observed in the international T&I mapping literature, where certain language pairs and translation traditions remain consistently understudied relative to their cultural and social significance. Studies mapping translation research in other national contexts have similarly identified the underrepresentation of non-Western language pairs and indigenous or religious translation traditions as a structural blind spot in the field's research agenda (Madrah et al., 2021; O'Sullivan, 2012). Future mapping studies and research agendas in Indonesian T&I should treat Islamic translation as a distinct and substantive subfield rather than a peripheral or specialized category.

2.11. The Persistent Underrepresentation of Interpreting as an Institutional Failure

Despite the inclusion of dedicated interpreting keyword clusters in both English and Indonesian, interpreting studies account for only 8.9% of the final corpus — 67 publications out of 753. The T&I mode distribution reinforces this finding: combined interpreting modes

account for just 8.6% of the corpus, against 91.4% for written translation. Most strikingly, eleven of the interpreting-specific keywords searched in GARUDA returned zero results — including “interpreter competence,” “interpreter training,” “remote interpreting,” “*penjuru bahasa simultan*,” “*penjuru bahasa konsektif*,” and “*penjuru bahasa pengadilan*” — and a further nine returned fewer than ten records each. These zero and near-zero results are not search failures but empirical findings: they constitute direct evidence that Indonesian interpreting scholarship is not merely underrepresented relative to translation research but is in many subfields effectively absent from the national scholarly record.

This finding should not be read merely as a research gap but as evidence of an institutional failure of research focus. The near-absence of scholarly inquiry into court interpreting, community interpreting, remote interpreting, and sign language interpreting in Indonesia — areas with direct and significant professional, legal, and social consequences for Indonesian citizens — reflects a broader institutional failure to nurture interpreting as a distinct and valued professional and academic discipline. Universities, research programs, and professional bodies have not yet created the conditions — through dedicated interpreting curricula, research funding, or publication incentives — that would generate a sustained body of interpreting scholarship comparable to what exists for translation. This finding substantiates and extends the arguments made by Suryadi et al. (2025), Nugroho & Johanes (2024), and Attruk (2025) in the Literature Review, and sends a clear signal to institutions that the professionalization of interpreting in Indonesia urgently requires scholarly infrastructure to match its professional growth. The present mapping study provides the empirical basis for that call.

2.12. Methodological Homogeneity and Its Consequences

The concentration of 67.9% of the corpus in qualitative textual and discourse analysis reflects a field with a coherent but narrow methodological base. The near-absence of experimental, corpus-based,

or large-scale quantitative approaches means that many empirically important questions about Indonesian translation and interpreting — concerning processing, quality, professional development, and outcomes — remain structurally unanswerable within the current research paradigm. The computational and NLP cluster (11.6%) represents an emerging methodological counterweight, but as discussed above, much of this work inhabits a disciplinary borderland between T&I and computer science that has not yet been fully integrated into the mainstream of translation studies inquiry in Indonesia. The methodological landscape of Indonesian T&I research thus appears bifurcated: technology-oriented work finds outlets in internationally indexed venues while humanistic and qualitative work circulates predominantly within the national publishing ecosystem, reflecting different publication strategies among researchers with different methodological orientations (Li et al., 2014; Saldanha & O'Brien, 2013).

An important caveat must be noted regarding the interpretation of 67.9% qualitative dominance observed in this corpus. Given the journal articles account for 97.3% of all included records while theses and dissertations represent only 0.4%, it is highly likely that this figure reflects the publication patterns of Indonesian T&I journals rather than the full corpus captures is primarily the publication choices of established researchers rather than the full range of methodological approaches being developed and practiced within Indonesian T&I scholarship. Postgraduate theses — particularly doctoral dissertations — frequently employ more theoretically sophisticated and methodologically innovative approaches than published journal articles and often engage with up-to-date data sources and emerging frameworks that have not yet made their way into the journal literature. The methodological conservatism observed in this corpus should therefore be read as a characteristic of the publication patterns of Indonesian T&I journals rather than as an indicator of the field's intellectual ceiling. This distinction is important: the 67.9% speaks to

what is being published and circulated, not to what is being thought and investigated across the full spectrum of Indonesia. Future mapping studies that are able to access institutional thesis repositories directly would likely produce a considerably more methodologically diverse picture of Indonesian T&I scholarship.

2.13. Limitations

Several limitations of this study should be acknowledged. *First*, as the corpus is drawn exclusively from journal articles (97.3%) and practitioner works (2.3%), with theses and dissertations accounting for only 0.4% of included records, this study does not capture the full range of Indonesian T&I scholarship. The findings should therefore be understood as a map of the published and accessible journal literature rather than a comprehensive account of the field's development. Claims about the landscape of Indonesian T&I research are made with this significant qualification in mind. *Second*, the single-reviewer screening approach, while partially mitigated through a 10% consistency re-examination and a documented second-reviewer agreement check on included records, does not provide the full inter-rater reliability assurance of a dual-reviewer design. *Third*, the discovery that GARUDA does not support Boolean operators required an adaptation of the planned search strategy, with each keyword searched individually — a modification that increased the total record pool and the deduplication workload but may have introduced inconsistencies in retrieval coverage across terms. *Fourth*, the use of “Indonesia” as a contextual marker in Google Scholar searches rather than a formal affiliation filter means that some records by Indonesian-affiliated authors may have been missed, while some records by non-Indonesian authors writing about Indonesia may have been retrieved and subsequently excluded at screening. Each of these limitations is inherent to the study's scope, resources, and timeline, and is documented here to support the transparent interpretation of findings and to inform the design of future mapping studies.

3. CLOSING

3.1. Conclusions

The growing body of T&I research produced in Indonesia represents an important and underexamined contribution to the global translation studies landscape — one whose full scope has remained invisible to international scholarship precisely because it circulates predominantly through national platforms and repositories inaccessible to major international databases. Establishing a systematic and evidence-based account of this body of work is therefore not only a scholarly contribution to the field but a necessary corrective act that makes visible what has been structurally overlooked.

This study set out to map the emerging themes and methodological approaches characterizing T&I research published by Indonesian-affiliated authors between 2020 and 2024. Drawing on a final corpus of 753 publications retrieved from Google Scholar and GARUDA — comprising predominantly peer-reviewed journal articles — the study provides a systematic mapping of the accessible Indonesian T&I journal literature across this period, with the important qualification that the near-absence of theses and dissertations in the corpus means the full landscape of Indonesian T&I scholarship, including the substantial contribution of postgraduate research, is not yet fully captured.

In response to the first research question — what themes emerge from Indonesian T&I research between 2020 and 2024 — the mapping reveals a field shaped by four dominant thematic concerns: machine translation quality evaluation, audiovisual translation with a strong focus on streaming subtitle analysis, classical framework-based translation technique and strategy studies, and cultural and literary translation with a notable Islamic scholarly subcluster. Interpreting studies, while present, account for less than 9% of the corpus, and an array of interpreting subfields — including court, community, remote, and sign language interpreting — are effectively absent from the

national scholarly record, reflecting not merely a research gap but an institutional failure to nurture interpreting as a distinct and valued academic and professional discipline.

In response to the second research question — what methodological approaches characterize this body of scholarship — the mapping reveals a field dominated by qualitative textual and discourse analysis, with an emerging computational strand concentrated in internationally indexed outlets and a persistent underrepresentation of experimental, corpus-based, and mixed methods approaches. This methodological profile reflects the publication patterns of Indonesian T&I journals and should not be taken as a definitive account of the intellectual capacities of Indonesian T&I researchers, whose postgraduate work — largely inaccessible through the platforms used in this study — may represent considerably more methodological diversity than the journal literature suggests.

3.2. Recommendation/Suggestion

The findings of this study carry targeted implications for four audiences.

For researchers, the most urgent priority is redirecting scholarly attention toward interpreting subfields with significant professional and social stakes — court interpreting, community interpreting in healthcare settings, remote interpreting, and sign language interpreting — to generate a meaningful body of Indonesian scholarly literature.

For educators and curriculum developers, the dominance of classical frameworks and text-based analysis warrants critical reflection on whether current research training in Indonesian T&I programs is equipping the next generation of researchers to address the field's most pressing applied and theoretical questions.

For professional bodies and policy makers, the near-absence of research on interpreter training, competence, and professional standards constitutes an urgent call to build the scholarly

infrastructure — through research funding, dedicated journals, and institutional recognition — that the professionalization of interpreting in Indonesia requires.

For future researchers conducting mapping studies, this study recommends the development of more explicit inclusion criteria for computational translation research, direct access to institutional thesis repositories to capture postgraduate scholarship, and the treatment of Islamic translation as a distinct subfield with its own research agenda and keyword vocabulary.

This study provides a preliminary baseline map of the accessible Indonesian T&I journal literature for the 2020–2024 period. As the field continues to grow and diversify, periodic re-mapping — drawing on expanding database coverage, direct thesis repository access, and evolving keyword vocabularies — will be essential for tracking how the research agenda develops and whether the gaps and institutional failures identified here are being addressed.

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