

Talent Cultivation of MTCSOL in China : A Literature Review Based on VOSviewer

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Abstract: This paper aims to supply researchers with a deeper understanding and a comprehensive data reference of talent cultivation of MTCSOL via a literature review based on bibliometric visualization tool VOSviewer, along with the discussion from two dimensions: synchronic and diachronic. The results indicate that the research on this field is expanding and diversifying at a rapid rate with a certain fluctuation. The present research topics mainly focus on curriculum, teaching practice, thesis and training mode. However, the reform of training program and the professional quality of students are supposed to become new research hotspots.

Keywords: MTCSOL; Talent Cultivation; Literature Review; VOSviewer; Visualization

1. Introduction

Master of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (MTCSOL) was formally established in 2007. As one of the professional degrees, it aims to cultivate high-level, applied, compound and international specialized talents who have proficient skills of teaching Chinese as a second language, cultural dissemination and cross-cultural communication, who are adapt to the international promotion of Chinese and are competent for a variety of teaching tasks.^[1] In the course of 14 years' development, this major has cultivated a large number of international Chinese education talents and has greatly promoted the internationalization of Chinese. Guided by bibliometrics and scientometrics, with the help of the visualization tool VOSviewer, this article conducts a visual analysis according to the scientific knowledge maps of the research on talent cultivation of MTCSOL in China between 2007 and 2021. While presenting the current research status, it also predicts the hotspots in the future. And the ultimate goal is to provide a useful reference for the further development of research on talent cultivation of MTCSOL and the sustainable development of International Chinese Language Education.

2. Methodology

2.1 Methods

Scientific Knowledge Map (or Knowledge Map) is an image that can visually and sequentially present the relationship and development of scientific knowledge structure, which is an effective tool for literature review. Based on the preliminary investigation, we finally selected the bibliometric visualization tool VOSviewer. VOSviewer, jointly developed by Van Eck and Waltman of Leiden University in 2009, is intuitively clear and pretty straightforward in showing the research status since the time factor is superimposed on the keyword co-occurrence map.

2.2 Data Collection

Use China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) as the data source to establish an advanced search: "Subject=Master of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages" OR "Subject=MTCSOL" AND "Subject=Training". As of December 1, 2021, a total of 568 documents have been retrieved. These obtained documents were subjected to two

rounds of data cleaning, that is, advertisements, newsletters, reports, book reviews and articles not highly relevant were eliminated. We finally got 325 valid documents as the sample data for this study. Run the VOSviewer, set the minimum co-occurrence of keywords to “3”, keep English keywords, and then draw a *Keywords Network Visualization Map* (Figure 2.) and a *Keywords Overlay Visualization Map* (Figure 3.).

3. Analysis

3.1 Comprehensive Situations

The time and volume of publications can roughly judge the overall development of research in a certain field. The literature about talent cultivation of MTCSOL clearly archived in CNKI first appeared in 2007 (see Figure 1.), which is mainly because the academic item “Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages” has gained wide consensus since Academic Degree Commission of the State Council in China approved the establishment of the “MTCSOL” degree in 2007. Previously, academic research on this area mostly used subjects or keywords such as “Chinese as a Foreign Language” and “the Teaching of Chinese as a Second Language”. In 2012 and 2016, there are two research peaks mainly due to the impact of relevant policies. In general, the number of articles published for talent cultivation of MTCSOL has shown a dynamic growth trend. And it’s expected that a large number of relevant research literature will emerge for adapting to the new era, new situation and new requirements.

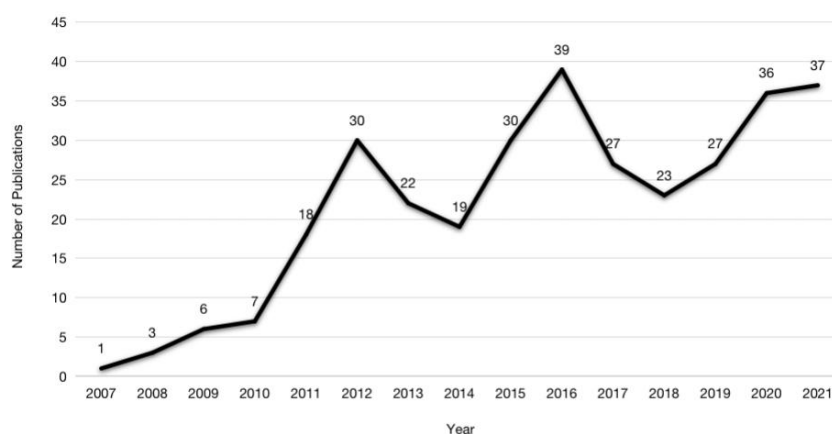


Figure1. Annual Number of Publications between 2007 and 2021

The type and number of documents can roughly reflect the research situation and research groups. In the area of talent cultivation of MTCSOL, academic articles, with a total of 162 articles, account for the most (see Table 1.). Among them, the core journals and the high-level journals in this industry contain 87 articles, with an average of about 6 articles published yearly. Besides, there are nearly half of dissertations discussing the talent cultivation of MTCSOL in which research groups are basically students majoring MTCSOL. Relatively, the number of conference articles archived in CNKI is small even though there have been certain conferences or forums focusing on this topic.

Table 1. Literature Type and Number of Research

Literature Type	Academic Article	Dissertation	Conference Article	Total
Number	162	149	14	325
Percentage	50.16%	45.42%	4.41%	100%

The keywords of literature condense the core content of articles and can help us quickly grasp the research direction. The *Keywords Network Visualization Map* (see Figure 2.) generated by VOSviewer simultaneously presents the popularity and influence of keywords and the logical relationship between keywords. In VOSviewer, different clusters are marked by different colors, and the bigger node represents the greater weight of the keyword while the redder node indicates the average

practice” and “curriculum”. The teaching practice is an important phase for MTCSOL students to apply the knowledge and develop the abilities. The relevant literature mostly focuses on the overseas internships of MTCSOL students, discussing the construction of the internship system from multiple levels, such as selection, training, content, process monitoring, effect evaluation, etc. The curriculum system, as the main body of the training program, is an obvious factor in talent training. The current research on it can be divided into “research on instructive curriculum system” and “research on colleges’ curriculum system”. The former mostly centers on *Instructive Training Program for the Postgraduates of MTCSOL Degree* (2007) and *Instructive Training Program for the Full-time Postgraduates of MTCSOL* (2009), while the latter gives corresponding solutions on the basis of investigation or comparative analysis, which makes the research methods relatively consistent.

167 relevant documents are found during the Exploration Stage (2012-2017). The hotspot labels for this stage revolve around “thesis” or “academic dissertation”. The dissertation, as a significant indicator of the effectiveness of talents cultivation, can more comprehensively reflect the basic situations about the colleges of MTCSOL training, talent training models, students’ professional qualities, etc. The academic documents mostly start from the topic selection of the dissertation of MTCSOL students to point out the deficiencies about MTCSOL training program. Consequently, the research methods and results of these articles are similar.

As of December 1, 2021, the Development Stage (2018 to present) has witnessed 123 documents related to talent cultivation of MTCSOL. And the relevant literature mainly focuses on “professional degree” and “professional development”. As the educational technology has been developing, the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and Covid-19 has broken out worldwide, the training program of MTCSOL also needs to be adjusted accordingly, which has caused a lot of discussions in the academic circle. Besides, in order to meet the need for high-quality professional development, researches at this stage also concentrate more on online internships and training specifications.

Combined with the three-stage research status, we believe MTCSOL is a major that greatly influenced by the pattern of the times. In this regard, we forecast that relevant research on talent cultivation of MTCSOL in the future will still be carried out around all aspects of the talent training model, being more and more systematic. Meanwhile, there will be more research groups discussing the professional quality and talent development direction of MTCSOL students.

4. Conclusion

This article analyzes the comprehensive situations and hotspots issues about talent cultivation of MTCSOL from two dimensions: synchronic and diachronic. On the whole, the research on talent cultivation of MTCSOL has achieved fruitful results in the course of 14 years. From the number of documents, published articles are generally increasing with a certain fluctuation. From the research themes, curriculum, teaching practice, thesis and training mode have been given more attention by the academic circles. From the research hotspots, different stages have different hotspots due to the characteristics of the times. The reform of training programs and the professional quality of students are expected to become new research hotspots.

However, the research on talent cultivation of MTCSOL has also exposed some common problems. First, there are more static studies and less dynamic studies. Static research, observing from an external perspective, mainly focuses on the talent training model, which covers the overall design, curriculum system, teaching practice, training program, training objectives, talent evaluation and other sub-sections of research; while dynamic research, starting from an internal perspective, mainly focuses on the effectiveness of talent cultivation of MTCSOL, that is the students’ teaching ability, professional quality, media literacy, growth and development, etc. Generally speaking, the latter has a wider coverage, which can extend from the inside to the outside and transition from dynamic to static. However, the contents of the current research literature are mostly limited to the curriculum, and there are few researches on the quality of students. Second, there are more macro studies and less micro studies. At present, the research topic selection is relatively large, and the research on talent training models mostly stays at the theoretical level and the macroscopic construction level. At the same time, research conclusions are basically consensus issues, which means fundamental problems are rarely touched. Besides, there are few researches on micro-level and specialized issues. That is, researches on training management, resource construction and teacher construction still show large gaps, which cannot meet the actual needs of professional development and social progress. Third,

the research method is single and the research perspective is thin. The current research methods are mostly speculative analysis, investigation research, case analysis, comparative analysis, etc. and the research perspectives still stay within the subject and lack interdisciplinary awareness.

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