

Political Identity: A systematic review and bibliometric analysis

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Abstract. Issues related to identity politics have become topics that scientists to date widely discuss. Identity politics has resulted in conflicts between religious communities, which has caused public opinion to become apathetic towards the government. This study aims to review various kinds of literature and map the trend of articles related to identity politics using a constantly evolving bibliometric analysis—this study, based on 500 selected Scopus articles from 2012 to 2021. Trends in journal publications used to identify influential works illustrate the intellectual structure. The most prominent authors, countries, articles, and themes were identified using bibliometric analysis, followed by a substance analysis of the 100 identified articles. In addition, a content analysis was carried out on 175 articles over the last five years, from 2017 to 2021, which included co-citation analysis. Emerging themes are identified and explained. The conceptual framework is modeled with a complete image visualization, along with potential research areas. This study will help academics, government, politicians, and policymakers to know the ins and outs of identity politics literacy and identify relevant areas for research.

Keywords: Political Identity; Systematic review; Bibliometric analysis

1 Introduction

Identity politics is one of the most widely discussed and researched topics by experts around the world. Identity politics received significant attention from various circles for the first time in the United States due to the very thick discrimination between whites and blacks. The harsh treatment, extortion, and intimidation experienced by black citizens in America raise the importance of identity politics to fight for the rights of black citizens in the domination of the state (Lestari, 2018; Maarif, 2012). Identity politics is always related to issues of religious ideology and issues of nationalism in society (Maarif, 2012). The differences that occur in the practice of identity politics also affect the practice of democracy in both developed and developing countries.

Researchers have widely discussed the topic related to identity politics. Fitri Ramdhani Harahap, in her research, found that identity pluralism is threatened by the existence of identity politics that leads to the destruction of the long-standing integrity of religious life. In other words, that religious pluralism has led to disharmony between communities (Harahap, 2014). In addition, research conducted by Ahmad Syafei Maarif found that identity politics is

more related to issues of ethnicity, religion, and local interests, which are generally represented by the elite with their respective articulations (Maarif, 2012). The research of these experts at least revolves around discussing two significant powers that are contesting in the public sphere dominated by religious and nationalist forces. It is feared that these two forces will destroy political stability in a country (Lestari, 2018). In the study of these experts, not many have seen other causes of the destruction of political stability and democracy apart from religious and nationalist forces. The difference in this research lies in that religious identity politics and nationalism are not the main factors contributing to the destruction of integrity. Still, ethnic identity has also significantly contributed to triggering the birth of disharmony in the practice of identity politics.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview related to identity politics based on an accelerated bibliometric analysis approach using two analytical models, namely, search result analysis in the Scopus menu and VOSviewer. Accordingly, two questions can be formulated in this paper: (a) what are the trends and characteristics of journal articles written by Indonesian authors; (b) how the topics developed in journal articles by experts relate to identity politics in Indonesia. Thus, based on these two questions, it is possible to find new approaches in solving various problems related to the rise of identity politics, which has caused various conflicts by looking for new policy directions that are better for the impacts caused by the practice of identity politics.

This paper is based on an argument that the topic and issue of identity politics is related to conflicts that occur in society, especially in the problem of the division in society into three major groups, namely religious groups, nationalist groups, and ethnic groups. Each of these three power groups presents the exclusivism of the religious majority and nationalist groups (Castela, 2003) who continue to contest in the public sphere for power. This is also exacerbated by political dynamics that tend to use these three issues as political tools to obtain and maintain political power, thus causing various societal conflicts.

2 Methods

This study uses an analytical bibliometric review based on Scopus indexed journal articles. Data collection was based on the keyword “political identity” and found 500 journal articles. Then the researcher narrowed the object area in 2017-2021 by choosing English, and found 100 Scopus indexed journal articles that discussed identity politics. Furthermore, articles that have been selected from the Scopus database are saved in the form of a CSV file. Furthermore, it is analyzed using two forms of analysis: search result analysis in the Scopus menu and analysis using VOSviewer software. Thus, the steps in this study are described in the form of Figure 1 below.

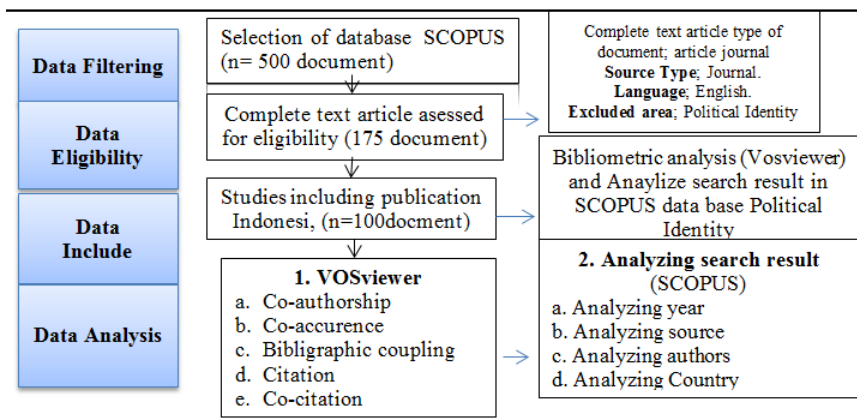


Fig. 1. Processing of bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer.

3 Result

3.1 Trend publication on Political identity

Based on analyzing search results and VOSviewer, it was found that the trend of the number of Scopus indexed articles related to identity politics from 2019 to 2021 experienced an increase in publications. Based on the determination of Scopus articles on social science objects and the publication stage, starting in 2019, there were seven journal articles indexed by Scopus, in 2020 there was an increase in the number to 35 articles, and in 2021 there was a significant spike reaching 66 articles, as shown in the figure. 2. The number of publications of articles published in 2020 and 2021 may be because, in that year, various political contestations between religious groups dominated by Islamic forces were faced with nationalist forces in fighting for public legitimacy, so that academics felt interested to conduct publications related to issues that are trending topics in 2020 to 2021.

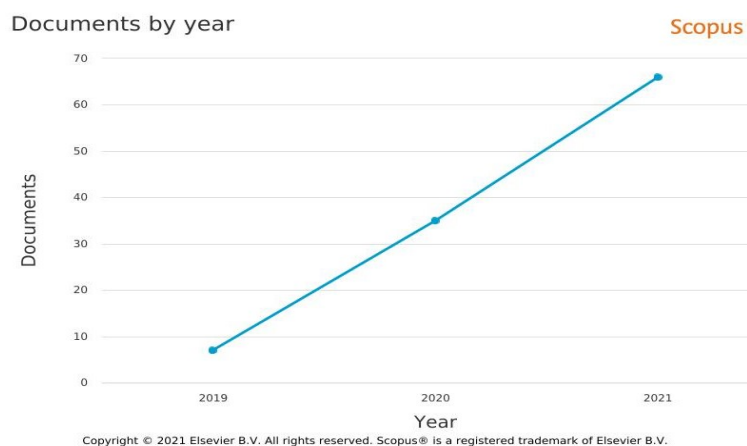


Fig. 2. Analysis yearly trend article Political of identity in Indonesia indexed in Scopus

Based on VOSviewer, it was found that the number of articles related to identity politics indexed by Scopus based on a minimum frequency of two document articles obtained 20 popular journals with a relatively diverse number of citations and total link strength, as shown in Table 1. 3 shows the visualization of authors who have at least 1 article document that has been published in the Scopus indexed journal based on a minimum frequency of two, obtained by 49 authors. Then in the following picture, it is explained that the Panulis is doing publications together with several authors from various countries, as shown in Figure 4 below.

Table 1. Top 20 journals and their publication in Scopus

No	Journal	Dokument	Citation	Link strength
1	Political Psycology	3	6	16
2	Political Bihavior	3	11	15
3	Political reseach quarterly	2	7	12
4	Sport and society	2	2	9
5	Critical review of international social and politic	3	3	9
6	Leadrship quarterly	2	4	5
7	Tourism geographies	1	3	4
8	Asian journal of comparative politic	2	2	4
9	Journal of multilingual and multicultural	1	4	2
10	Cultural studies	1	3	2
11	International organization	1	5	1
12	Modern china	2	4	1
13	Sociological quartery	4	0	0
14	Compare	1	0	0
15	Contemporary social science	1	0	0
16	Critical studies in education	1	0	0
17	Cultural diversity	1	0	0
18	Defence and peace economic	1	0	0
19	Educational philosopy	1	0	0
20	International relation	1	0	0

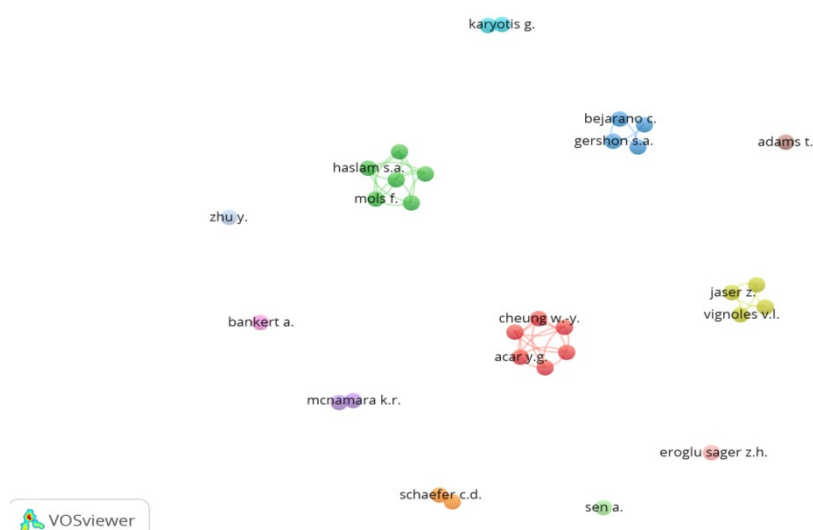


Fig. 3. analysis co-authorship network visualization of author

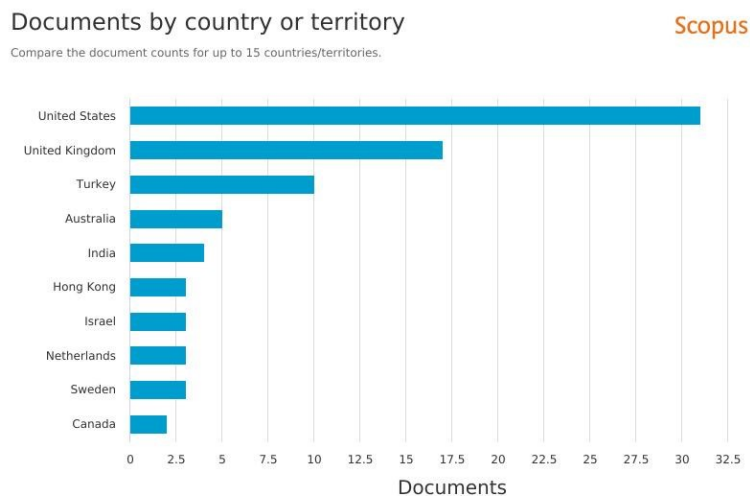


Fig. 4. analysis co-authorship network visualization of country

3.2 Topic Article Journal on Political of Identity

Based on VOSviewer analysis, found 322 keywords. If filtered with a minimum frequency of 2, then 50 keywords have met the threshold. Then from the 50 existing keywords, we filtered and selected 21 keywords that have a relationship between one node and another. The closer the distance between one node and another, the higher the level of the node relationship. VOSviewer is used for bibliometric mapping on the topic of identity politics that occurs in various countries in the world which are grouped into 6 clusters, and each cluster has a different color, namely; *first*; red cluster with six keywords such as the words politics, political entities, Islam minority group, humans and social justice. Second, green clusters, such as the words identity politics, neoliberalism, national identity, religion, and social identity. Third, blue clusters like the words discrimination, ethics, and race. Fourth, cluster with keywords gender and racism. The five purple clusters are identity and migration keywords. Then the sixth cluster is a yellow color cluster that only has one keyword, namely election.

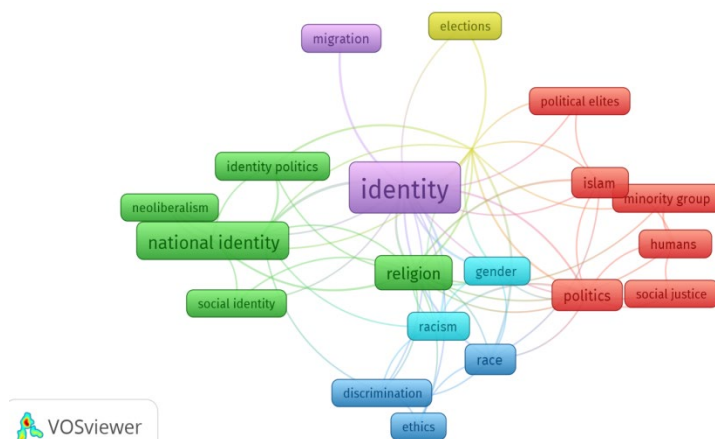


Fig. 5. analysis co-accurance network visualization of all keyword

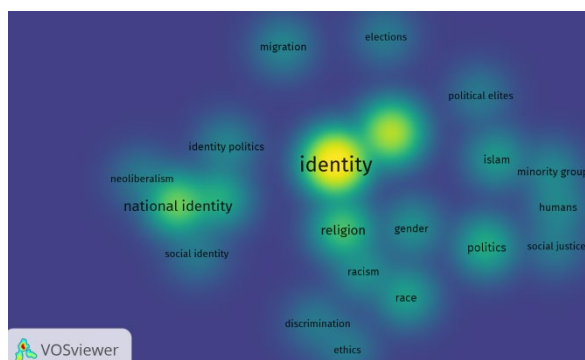


Fig. 6. analysis co-accurance density visualization

4 Discussion

This study found that the trends and characteristics of the Scopus indexed journal articles discussing identity politics experienced a relatively rapid development from 2019 to 2021. This development was more due to the increasing popularity of issues related to identity politics which was marked by the strengthening of the conflict between religious forces in Indonesia. On the one hand and nationalist forces on the other, which are feared to threaten the integrity of the life of the nation and state in Indonesia. The results of this study found that journal articles that have been published in various journals indexed by Scopus related to identity politics in Indonesia have been widely accepted by the scientific community around the world, as evidenced by the level of citation of journal articles and the level of collaboration in publication of articles indexed by Scopus between Indonesian writers, and writers from countries in the world. In line with that, this study finds that the topics and issues narrated by the author tend to be judgmental of the power of religion as the only cause of the increasing range of relationships between groups in society (Winarni, 2019).

The results showed three different sides, namely; (a) on the one hand, there has been a segmentation of the publication of Scopus indexed journal articles related to identity politics in Indonesia which tends to be subjective, and ignores the substantive; (b) the results of this study become the basis for seeing that there has been an alarming condition that has had a fundamental impact on the narrative built through the publication of Scopus indexed journal articles on the fragility of government mobility in society in carrying out the life of the nation and state in a society that incidentally has many differences in religion, race, ethnicity, and culture have legitimized the emergence of resistance in society against various policies that the government has issued; (c) the results of this study provide a research model that is more exploratory in nature by bringing up several latent factors for the creation of social and political conflicts in society.

The results of this study also provide an overview of the trends and characteristics of articles published in Scopus indexed journals, no longer a narrative built solely on the number of published research and journal articles, but more importantly, considering various aspects that can have an impact on understanding society about identity politics as a necessity that must occur in society. This kind of publication condition shows that the narrative built through research and writing articles published in the Scopus indexed journal has resulted in broader relations between community groups, especially in the Islamism group (Osman, 2018) and nationalism.

This study is different from other studies that discuss identity politics, which have emphasized that identity politics only revolves around religious and nationalist issues that endanger the harmony of the life of the nation and state. Some consider that identity politics is one of the causes of conflict between people in various countries in the world, especially in the election of leadership. This study confirms that identity politics today cannot be separated from political interests driven by political elites to gain and maintain power by manipulating identity politics in various groups such as race, ethnicity, culture, religion, nationalism, social justice, and neoliberalism. The grouping of these various groups has created divisions between groups which in the end become legitimacy for the political elite in discrediting the government by building a narrative that the ruling government is no longer able to handle state issues, especially those related to improving the welfare and prosperity of the wider community.

In line with that, issues regarding identity politics must be seen by who, what, and how those interests underlie it. The interests of elite groups who use identity politics to re-raise the issue of primordialism by trapping the fanaticism of a person or group in religious matters have spawned such a large division and become a threat to state nationalism. The conflict of identity politics was then exacerbated by various reports in the mass media accusing each other of the truth and wrongness of both parties. The increase in the number of reports, even in a matter of minutes, has led to uncontrollable issues regarding identity politics (Sukamto, 2010) and has led to new problems regarding the spread of news that is not yet certain, even though most of them contain lies, which in turn has a big enough influence on the intensification of conflict between nationalist groups. And religion (Khamdan, 2018).

5 Conclusion

The topic of identity politics published by the authors tends to assume that religion and nationalists are two significant groups that cause disharmony in society. Between the two groups of power, it turned out to be strengthened by the emergence of race, culture, and ethnicity, which had created chaos in society. This research proves that besides religious and nationalist groups, there are also racial, ethnic, and cultural groups as the cause of disharmony in society. Topics and issues built on subjectivity legitimize the occurrence of resistance in society. On the other hand, research topics and issues that are based on something substantive to increase community harmony will create public awareness and compliance with government policies. This research has made it possible to find political groupings based on religious, nationalist, ethnic, cultural, and racial identities that have disrupted state stability, marked by the emergence of a crisis of trust in the government.

This research is limited to analyzing trends and characteristics of journal articles that are only indexed by Scopus and written by Indonesian authors, so they do not have the authority to generalize. At the same time, the bibliometric analysis approach used has limitations to see how broad the coverage of topics and issues regarding identity politics in Indonesia is. For this reason, this paper suggests the need for further studies that accommodate good articles from Google Scholar, Crossref, Web of Science and use combined methods to obtain more complete results and more targeted policies.

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