Against the Metric Tide: A Bibliometric Corpus Study on the Marginalization of Non-English and Non-Western Research by Global Impact Metrics

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In the globalized yet uneven landscape of academic publishing, research impact is increasingly assessed through citation-based metrics, including the H-index, journal impact factors, and global rankings. This study concentrates on a comparative analysis of scholarly output from specific Global North and Global South countries and investigates how global citation metrics contribute to the systemic exclusion of non-English and non-Western academic research from mainstream scholarly visibility. Using a corpus-based bibliometric approach, this study examines the publication and citation patterns of major indexing platforms, such as Scopus and Web of Science, highlighting disparities in citation frequency, journal inclusion, language representation, and impact factor distributions. The study finds that the current metrics system favors the hegemony of English-language journals from the Global North and a diminished exposure of regionally oriented non-English publications. These findings further suggest that metrics reflect, impact, and perpetuate global academic hierarchies, thereby compromising knowledge diversity and epistemic justice. Finally, this study advocates for the development of alternative, multilingual bibliometric systems—regional citation indexes, language-sensitive impact indicators, and locally contextualized evaluation criteria—that can embrace a broader yet more inclusive view of global knowledge creation and influence.

Introduction

In the current global academic environment, bibliometric parameters, such as citation mentions, journal impact factors, and author H-indexes, are becoming increasingly influential in determining the visibility and impact of research. While designed to provide impartial measures of scholarly quality and productivity, these indicators may often reproduce geopolitical, linguistic, and epistemic disparities. Since English is the principal language of academic communication—as most high-impact journals are headquartered in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Western Europe—the status, visibility, and recognition of non-English research in global databases are redefining the new landscape of academic knowledge dissemination. Therefore, this study examines the role of global citation metrics in the systemic exclusion and marginalization of non-English and non-Western scholarship

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from the international dissemination of scholarly knowledge. The analysis concentrates on the comparative bibliometric and discursive attributes of two datasets (corpora): one consisting of English-language journals from the Global North and the other comprising non-English-language journals from the Global South.

The study aims to address three main research objectives: first, it examines the extent to which non-English and Global South research is represented in major citation indexes (i.e., Web of Science and Scopus). Second, it compares citation frequencies and indexation probabilities across linguistic and geographic datasets to identify measurable disparities in scholarly visibility. Thirdly, it explores the existing nexus between publication origin, language of dissemination, and access to global impact metrics. Taken together, all these objectives facilitate an understanding of how language and geopolitical hierarchies can influence academic recognition and guide the development of more equitable evaluation practices. For this analysis, the terms "Global North" and "Global South" will be employed not as geographical descriptors but as socioeconomic and epistemic categories. They demonstrate imbalanced dynamics of academic production, distribution, and power within the global research ecosystem, dynamics that often perpetuate historical and structural imbalances between the centers and peripheries of knowledge transfer. The current research also pursues a corpus-linguistic approach that rests on the analysis of large text datasets to identify linguistic patterns such as co-occurrences, frequencies and key-word-in-context (KWIC) correlations that are apt to illustrate the framing and mobilization of academic communication. By adopting corpus-linguistic and bibliometric perspectives, the present study seeks to interrogate how quantitative citation regimes intersect with qualitative linguistic patterns to either sustain or challenge the existing hegemonies of global scholarship. Finally, it sets out to inform—both empirically and methodologically—ongoing debates on bibliometric equity, multilingualism in research, and the democratization of global academic exposure.

Literature Review

In general, citation metrics are designed to provide objective assessments of academic productivity and influence; however, they persistently draw scrutiny for perpetuating structural disparities in the production of global knowledge (Hammarfelt & Rushforth, 2017; Marginson, 2018; John & Rempala, 2024). While many researchers maintain that evaluation should prioritize the research process over the outcome to encourage behaviors that promote open and reproducible science (Frankenhuis & Nettle, 2018; Dougherty et al., 2019; Smaldino & McElreath, 2016), other scholars argue that citation data and impact factors are downright limited in evaluating scientists and their research output, dismissing them as inconsistent and often false predictors of research quality (Aksnes et al., 2019, Dougherty & Horne, 2022; Hicks et al., 2015). The fact that English remains the primary language of research discourse has recently sparked additional concerns over the epistemic inclusivity of academic assessment regimes (Canagarajah, 2002; Meneghini & Packer, 2007; Gobbo & Russo, 2019). In this context, major citation databases like Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus, while focusing mostly on English-language journals from Western countries, have been found to overlook high-quality research from non-Western countries or in languages other than English (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2015; Walpole, 2019). Indeed, an overwhelming number of journals indexed in WoS are in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Western Europe; however, fewer than 20% are published in non-English languages (Archambault et al., 2002; Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2015; Yoon et al.,

2023). Such an apparent indexing mismatch points to the marginalization of Global South researchers who are frequently faced with language and economic obstacles that collectively impede their capacity to publish in peer-reviewed international journals (Beigel, 2014; Liu, 2016). Recently, many universities and research institutions have adopted policies that favor publications in high-impact English-language journals to enhance global visibility and university rankings (Salager-Meyer, 2014; Sugimoto et al., 2017). However, as English-language research articles reach a broader audience, they tend to attract more citations (Liang et al., 2013; Di Bitetti & Ferreras, 2017; Yoon et al., 2023), thereby reinforcing visibility disparities (Connell, 2007; Grosfoguel, 2013).

A wide variety of recent bibliometric analyses have increasingly highlighted linguistic and geographic biases (Cash-Gibson et al., 2018; Haelewaters et al., 2021) in scholarly publication (Moskaleva & Akoev, 2019) focusing on the inadequacy of contemporary evaluation metrics as predictors of global impact (Huang et al., 2025). Most of these studies have primarily addressed discipline patterns neglecting corpus-based comparative methods apt to facilitate a better understanding of how exclusion operates on both textual and systemic levels (Vessuri et al., 2013; Busse et al., 2022). This study's analysis fills this gap by offering a corpus-based bibliometric examination of publication and citation trends across a contrasting Global North/English-language and Global South/non-English-language group of journals. The purpose is to provide empirical evidence of indexing imbalances, citation disparities, and their epistemic implications, scrutinizing the reliability and fairness of current bibliometric systems and advocating for a reevaluation of scholarly impact assessment in a progressively multilingual and multipolar context.

Methodology

Three interrelated research concerns underpin this study:

1. To determine the representation of non-English language research within the leading worldwide citation databases (Scopus and WoS).
2. To evaluate the citation frequencies and explore the discrepancies between English-language versus non-English-language contributions within similar disciplinary fields.
3. Establish the correlation between the geographic origin of journals and the probability of their inclusion in high-impact indexing systems.

The representation of non-English research across leading worldwide citation databases (Scopus and WoS) represents this study's primary research question. Therefore, the need to look more closely into the average citation frequencies of English-language versus non-English-language contributions within similar disciplinary fields allows the author to explore discrepancies in citation performance. The third research direction seeks to establish the correlation between the geographic origin of journals and the probability of their inclusion in high impact indexing systems, thereby emphasizing the current structural differences, if any, between publication venues in the Global North and Global South. The complex assessment of the dynamics of global citation metrics is facilitated by a mixed-methods bibliometric analysis—quantitative citation analysis and corpus linguistics techniques—to clarify the representation, citation practices, and linguistic characteristics of academic publications from both Global North/English-language and Global South/non-English-language articles and to empirically assess potential disparities in discursive legitimacy, indexing, and citation visibility across linguistic and geographic divides.

Two balanced datasets were developed to facilitate comparative bibliometric and corpus-linguistic analysis. A criterion-based purposive sampling was used in three steps: defining the discipline, choosing the journals, and choosing the articles. Thus, Scopus ASJC and WoS classifications were used to find journals in the fields of education, social sciences, and public health. The sampling procedure was non-probabilistic but intentionally balanced to capture representative patterns within comparable disciplinary and linguistic contexts. Corpus A was bundled as a collection of 250 peer-reviewed research articles published in high-impact English-language journals with Q1/Q2 ranking—indexed in both WoS and Scopus—from the Global North between 2015 and 2024. Corpus B comprises 250 peer-reviewed articles that were published in Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Romanian, and Arabic. These articles were published in journals from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The periodicals were chosen for their local relevance and disciplinary comparability, and they were sourced from regional databases,[1] such as SciELO, RedALyC, CNKI, AJOL, and from national open-access repositories. The following bibliometric metadata were systematically extracted for each article in both datasets (A and B): publication year, journal title, language, country of origin, citation count, and indexing classification (WoS/Scopus inclusion). The analytical tools utilized were AntConc and Sketch Engine for corpus processing, VOSviewer for citation network mapping, and R (Bibliometrix package) for statistical modeling.

The study's established goal was to highlight corpora disparities in citation frequency, journal inclusion, language representation, and impact factor distributions. In this study, citation frequency refers to the total number of citations received by each article as recorded in WoS and Scopus at the time of data collection. No temporal or disciplinary normalization was applied; therefore, the comparison reflects raw citation counts rather than citation rates. As well, the analysis process had explicit inquiries regarding the correlation between impact factors, citation mentions, as well as research quality metrics. Nonetheless, the study's examinations remained exploratory in nature, which is why subsequent reliability was tested by modifying model parameters and prior decisions, incorporating or excluding various determinants and group-level implications, and generating alternative distributional assumptions (e.g., the indexing disparity mapping by region). Thus, even though the citation metrics analysis, indexing disparity mapping, and linguistic corpus analysis were reported throughout the study, the primary focus remained quantifying the extent of the effects, rather than making binary assessments regarding their statistical significance. Furthermore, and despite this analysis revealing distinct quantitative differences in citation visibility and indexing inclusion, it nonetheless refrains from employing inferential statistical tests to evaluate significance. The approach is thus both descriptive and exploratory, as it is aimed at delineating the dimensions of systemic inequality rather than testing specific hypotheses. Future research informed by comprehensive citation-level datasets and longitudinal metadata could further enhance this

[1]SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) is a cooperative open-access platform hosting peer-reviewed journals from Latin America, Portugal, Spain, and South Africa. RedALyC (Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal) functions as an open-access network of Ibero-American scientific journals promoting regional visibility and bibliometric independence. CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure) is the largest national academic publishing and citation database in China, providing access to scholarly output in Chinese and English. AJOL (African Journals Online) is a digital platform aggregating peer-reviewed African journals to enhance discoverability and dissemination of research from the continent.

study by using formal significance testing and regression-based modeling to validate and expand the current findings.

Results

Citation Metrics

The examination of citation metrics demonstrates significant asymmetries between the two data sets (see Table 1). Table 1 shows that all journals in Corpus A (Global North / English-language, hereinafter referred to as A-journals) were indexed in both WoS and Scopus, displaying a 100% inclusion rate. This 100% inclusion rate is not surprising but serves as a baseline for comparison with Corpus B, whose lower indexing levels underscore the structural imbalance between regions. By contrast, only 43% of journals in Corpus B (Global South / non-English-language, hereinafter referred to as B-journals) were found to be included in Scopus and 16% in WoS. Furthermore, citation density-wise, A-journals exhibited a significantly higher total citation count and mean citations per corpus, with an average of 22.6 citations per article, in contrast to B-journals, which had an average of 4.3 citations per article. This preliminary finding showed a consistent citation rate for A-publications versus a sporadic citation activity for B-articles.

Somewhat expectedly, quartile-wise, the study's analysis found A-journals to be within the high quartile rankings (Q1/Q2) of their respective disciplines, whereas most B-journals appeared in lower quartiles when indexed (see Table 2).

Looking further into potential structural asymmetries in global scholarly recognition, the author found a way to isolate and quantify disparities in citation performance. The study's methodological approach—which allowed for a fairer comparison of typical citation performance between the two datasets—was premised on the central role that citation metrics play in shaping perceptions of research quality, impact, and authority within academia. Although

TABLE 1
Corpus Summary and Indexing Status

Corpus	Articles	Languages	Indexed in Scopus (%)	Indexed in WoS (%)	Average Citations
A (Global North / English)	250	English	100%	100%	22.6
B (Global South / Non-English)	250	Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Arabic, Romanian	43%	16%	4.3

TABLE 2
Journal-Level Impact Factor by Quartile and Corpus

Quartile	Corpus A (Global North / English)	Corpus B (Global South / Non-English)
Q1	62%	7%
Q2	28%	12%
Q3	10%	22%
Q4	0%	14%
No Impact Factor	0%	45%

citations are frequently used as proxies for scholarly influence in evaluations of researchers, journals, and institutions, these metrics remain highly sensitive to systemic factors, such as language, geographic origin, and database coverage, which can bias assessments against scholarship produced outside the Anglophone, Global North context. Instrumentally, the median citation rate was chosen as a reliable measure of central tendency that is less affected by the typical bias of citation distributions compared to the mean (see Figure 1). As Figure 1 shows, for A-journals, analysis yielded a median of 20.5 citations per article, indicating that half of the articles received more than 20.5 citations and half received fewer. The citation distribution is thus positively biased, with an extended upper tail that represents a group of highly cited publications that raise the overall average.

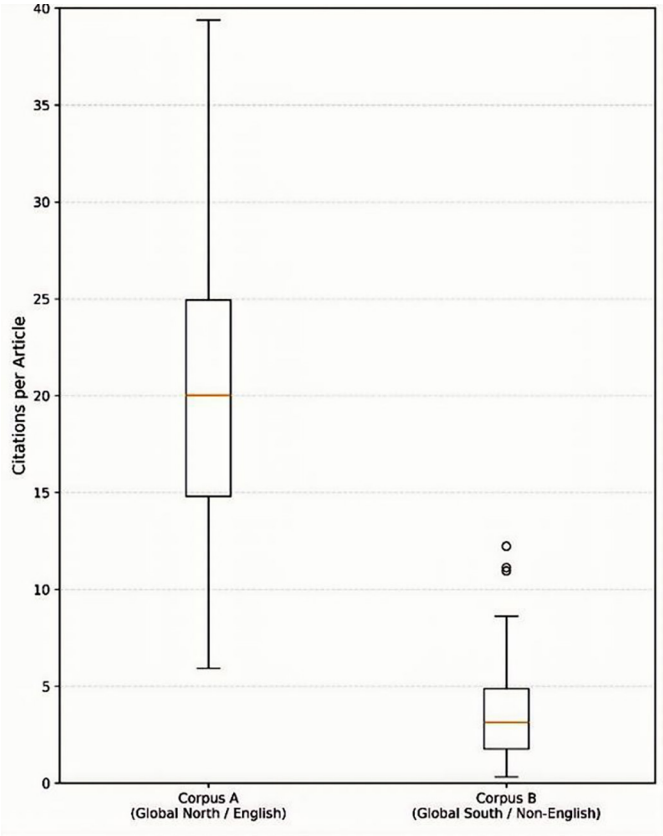


Figure 1. Citation Distribution Comparison.

An additional analysis of the citation network (see Table 3) showed the significance of English-language journals in international scholarly communication networks. Specifically, the position of the node in the network, indicative of the extent to which it facilitates the exchange of information between other journals, allowed the author to identify the journals that were being connected by citation relationships. Using the metric of betweenness centrality, the author could thus measure how well a node serves as a bridge between the shortest pathways between other pairs of nodes. In the case of this study, the betweenness centrality score for a journal was computed as the percentage of the shortest citation paths between all pairs of journals that go through it. In optimal scholarly communication, journals with high betweenness centrality can maximize the transfer of information between regions of the network that are otherwise unconnected. To reveal this, the author first calculated the betweenness centrality score by means of VOSviewer (a useful bibliometric mapping utility) per language-region groupings (e.g., Mandarin: China; Spanish: Latin America; English: US/UK/Canada) and determined the average centrality score for each category. Then, to further establish the concentration of influential journals within each region/language group, the author determined the percentage of nodes in the top 10% of the centrality distribution

TABLE 3
Citation Network Centrality Scores

Region/Language	Average Betweenness Centrality	Percentage of Nodes in Top 10%
English (US/UK/Canada)	0.482	63%
Spanish (LATAM)	0.119	9%
Mandarin (China)	0.097	7%
Portuguese (Brazil)	0.081	5%
Arabic/Romanian	<0.05	<1%

(see Table 3). The results presented in Table 4 indicate that 63% of the nodes in the top 10% by betweenness centrality were English-language nodes, primarily from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, as a reflection of their epistemic centrality. In contrast, journals in Arabic, Portuguese (Brazil), Mandarin (China), Spanish (Latin America), and Romanian occupied more peripheral network positions and reported lower centrality metrics.

Indexing Disparity

The geographical distribution of indexing density provided further information about potential asymmetries in the inclusion of journals across world regions in major citation databases like Scopus and WoS. Figure 2 maps this geographical distribution of indexing density, highlighting a stark contrast between near-universal indexing coverage for A-journals and the relative exclusion of B-journals.

Discursive Structures

For all their bibliometric worth, citation counts and network centrality scores provide insight into patterns of visibility and influence; however, they do not disclose the ideological positioning, contextualization, or framing of knowledge within published research. To maximize and validate this study's findings, it was imperative to incorporate a qualitative keyword-in-context (KWIC) analysis into the analysis to enable the author to investigate the discursive structures that influence scholarly communication in the Global North and Global South, rather than relying solely on quantitative citation metrics. The comparison across datasets—enabled by the AntConc and Sketch Engine tools—generated concordance lines, analyzed patterns of co-text, and retrieved instances of key thematic terms along with their immediate left and right contexts, facilitating both frequency counts and qualitative interpretation. The KWIC analysis (see Figure 3) provided a fine-grained textual examination of the epistemic orientations and rhetorical strategies that are characteristic of various academic cultures.

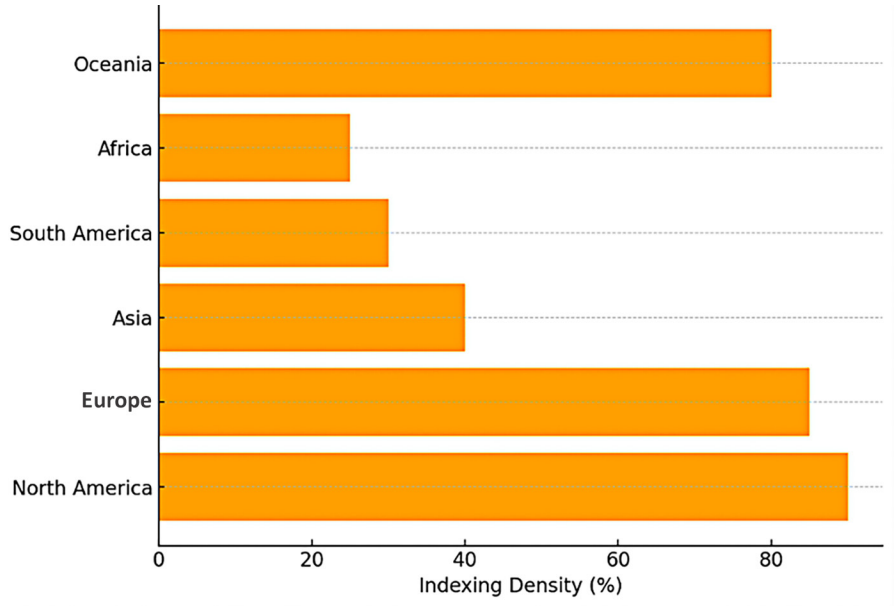


Figure 2. Indexing Disparity by Region.

Discussion

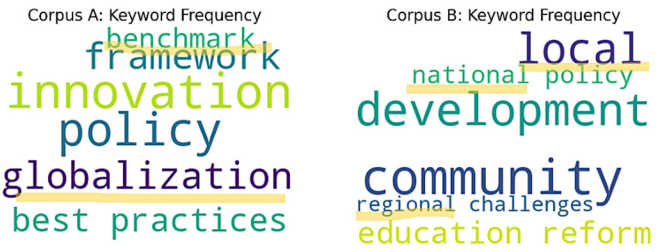


Figure 3. Keyword Frequency by Corpus.

Based on the results presented, a clearer picture of the landscape of academic publishing is shaping. Firstly, the indexing status results reveal a distinct variation disparity in database coverage between the two datasets. While Corpus A (Global North / English) has a complete representation, with 100% of journals indexed in both Scopus and WoS, Corpus B (Global South / Non-English) shows considerably lower inclusion rates of 43% in Scopus and only 16% in WoS. This contrast shows a structural imbalance of global indexing systems, with a Scopus database that demonstrates comparatively greater inclusiveness toward regional and non-English journals but where overall accessibility remains heavily skewed toward Anglophone, Global North publications. Such uneven representation directly affects research exposure, citation potential, and the global circulation of non-Western knowledge. More to the point, the fact that A-journals were predominantly located in the upper quartiles of their respective disciplinary rankings (i.e., Q1/Q2 according to *Journal Citation Reports*) is indicative of their perceived prestige and prominence within the international academic community. Journals such as *Educational Researcher* (impact factor ≈ 7.4, Q1 in the field of education) and *Social Science & Medicine* (impact factor 5.9, Q1 in the field of public health) are such examples of English-language publications in Global North high-impact publishing.

In contrast, B-journals when indexed were often placed in the lower quartiles (Q3/Q4) or did not have an official impact factor; this finding suggests a restricted international reach despite their perceived regional significance. For instance, *Revista Brasileira de Educação* and *Educación y Sociedad*, which are highly regarded in Latin America and indexed in regional databases such as SciELO and RedALyC, were either absent from the WoS database or ranked in the lower quartiles when they were present. Similar patterns were observed for Chinese-language journals listed in CNKI and Arabic-language journals indexed in regional repositories but absent from global rankings. Eastern European journals meet comparable barriers. For instance, *Revista Română de Sociologie* (*Romanian Journal of Sociology*), a key publication in Romania's national sociological community, published under the aegis of the Romanian Academy, is infrequently indexed in Scopus and absent from WoS, with no assigned impact factor, despite its disciplinary relevance in Eastern Europe. Similarly, the *Romanian Journal of Political Science*, although included in *Scopus* and the *Social Sciences Citation Index*, holds an impact factor of just 0.1 and is classified as Q4 in *Journal Citation Reports.* These discrepancies demonstrate a trend in which global indexing and ranking systems systematically relegate regionally significant but non-Anglophone journals to the periphery, thereby reproducing entrenched epistemic hierarchies that favor English-language, Global North publications.

In terms of citation distribution, the results (see Figure 1) indicate that, while citation performance varies within the Global North corpus, structural advantages such as full indexing coverage, higher journal impact factors, and wider international circulation support consistently higher citation visibility. B-journals, on the other hand, with a median citation rate of 3.1, demonstrate that non-English, Global South articles were minimally cited, even when the disciplinary fields and time periods were the same. This compressed distribution

featuring a reduced central tendency and a considerable number of minimally cited articles points to how non-English-language regionally focused research is pushed to the periphery of global citation networks. This study's findings further confirm that the systemic underrepresentation of Global South scholarship in international impact metrics is sustained by current indexing practices and language barriers that reproduce entrenched epistemic hierarchies in academic knowledge production. By way of comparative analysis, the importance of critically reassessing the global reliance on citation-based metrics is intertwined with the need for more equitable and inclusive measures of scholarly impact.

Concerning citation network centrality (see Table 3), the structural inclusion of English-language journals into global citation networks offsets the markedly low presence of such B-journals among the most significant nodes. This, in turn, sustains inequalities in visibility, authority, and impact in the production and distribution of academic knowledge. Likewise, such a network setup suggests that scholarly research communication is hardly a neutral system but rather one that reinforces current geopolitical and linguistic hierarchies within a system that places English-language journals at the center of global knowledge flows and non-English-language journals at the margins.

Emerging from the indexing disparity mapping presented in Figure 2, the reduced discoverability, citation potential, and general global visibility of scholarship from the Global South point to sustaining cumulative advantage processes that favor Anglophone research outputs. The indexing status of Oceania (in particular Australia and New Zealand) differs widely from other regions, being comparable to that of Europe and North America. This is largely attributed to its strong integration into Anglophone academic networks, substantial public investment in research infrastructure, and the prevalence of English as the primary language of publication. All these features determine a higher indexing status for Oceania and an integration into the prominent indexing systems that favor English-language, high-output journals. Australia, especially, possesses a robust and globally competitive higher education and research sector that prioritizes publication in indexed journals, many of which already collaborate with international academic publishers (e.g., Springer Nature or Taylor & Francis) and which have similar technical and editorial standards required for inclusion in global indexing databases. For example, the journal *Higher Education Research & Development* (published in English and situated in Australia) is widely cited in international education research (i.e., Scopus and WoS), enjoying both the quality of its editorial processes and the structural advantages conferred by its collaboration with Taylor & Francis, as well as its location in a well-resourced, English-speaking academic system. Consequently, Oceania's indexing status is not anomalous; rather, it represents the consequence of cultural, linguistic, and structural alignment with the requirements and oversight mechanisms of the Global North.

Regardless of this justified exception, the low indexing densities of B-journals are evident, particularly for those located on the African, South American, and Asian continents. This study's findings sustain the main argument that global citation systems generally favor knowledge generated in English-centric academic settings disregarding research from a variety of linguistic and geographical contexts. Moreover, these findings suggest that scholars and journals from underrepresented non-English regions in Africa, South America, and Asia tend to cluster within comparatively low impact metric ranges, not necessarily as a reflection of research quality but as a consequence of structural constraints, such as limited database inclusion, reduced international visibility, and linguistic barriers that restrict their integration

into global citation networks. Language itself functions as a distinct structural impediment to citation, in addition to database inclusion. Scholars are significantly less inclined to discover, read, and cite research published in languages in which they lack proficiency, regardless of its indexing status. This dynamic is further exacerbated by the decreasing expectations for foreign language proficiency in English-centric academic systems, which suggests that current citation asymmetries are indicative of the transformation of scholarly practices that favor monolingual research contexts, in addition to bibliometric structures.

Emerging from these linguistic analysis results, shown in Figure 3, noticeable discursive asymmetries exist between the two datasets. In the English-language research of A-journals, the terms "best practices" and "global benchmarks" are consistently embedded in universalizing frames and appear with a high frequency. Such frames imply that knowledge generated in well-funded, English-speaking academic settings represents the norm and that findings can transcend national boundaries. For example, articles in A-journals about education often address policies in terms of "global benchmarks," "international standards," and "evidence-based practices," maximizing the portability and superiority of these models across regions and beyond local settings. B-journals non-English-language scholarship, on the other hand, exhibits a significantly distinct discourse pattern in which such keywords as "education reform," "local development," and "community" are used to emphasize regional policy challenges, culturally specific practices and a generally situated nature of knowledge production.

More specifically, articles from Latin American journals discuss, for instance, education reform relative to indigenous communities, while Romanian and Chinese journal articles generally anchor development discourse in national, regional, and historical contexts. This asymmetry indicates that scholarly discourse from the Global North tends to universalize notions by disregarding place and context, while scholarly discourse from the Global South regularly aligns global concepts with specific sociohistorical and cultural realities. Furthermore, such dominant discourse type shows another critical aspect, which is that academic communication is not just about language—it can be also profoundly ideological. While Global North publications use a rhetoric of generalizability that fits with their structural position at the epistemic center of global academia, Global South research is highly contextualized, which reflects its marginal position in global knowledge hierarchies. It is also important to acknowledge that research framed around broadly transferable or internationally comparable themes may naturally attract wider citation audiences due to its perceived applicability across contexts; however, the capacity of certain topics to be recognized as "global" rather than "local" is itself shaped by the structural and linguistic positioning of journals within dominant citation networks. This study's KWIC results show discourse itself to be yet another hegemonic contributor to the reproduction of epistemic inequalities, counterbalancing a dominant language of Global North universality with a peripheral Global South "local" knowledge.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The stated purpose of this study was to examine whether the non-English Global South academic research was excluded by global citation metrics from mainstream scholarly exposure. Beyond its linguistic and bibliometric dimensions, this study contributes to ongoing discussions in academic librarianship and research evaluation by providing empirically grounded evidence that can inform responsible metrics policies, collection development strategies, and more equitable assessment frameworks. The findings demonstrate that English-language,

Global North journals are favored by citation-based impact metrics and that Global South journals are marginalized within a dynamic process that is supported by current indexing techniques, structural global citation networks, and dominant discursive norms that favor abstract, universal frameworks over contextually specific and local epistemologies. Such a disproportionate academic exposure and research acknowledgment call for a critical reassessment of the definition and evaluation of scholarly influence in the global academic arena.

Within the contemporary landscape of academia, which aims to achieve epistemic inclusiveness and fairness, diversification and adjustment to bibliometric infrastructures represent technical and ethical necessities addressing the intellectual contributions of researchers operating in diverse contexts and languages. Consequently, and considering this study's findings, the establishment of alternative, multilingual bibliometric systems can be more pluralistic and inclusive in their approach to global knowledge production. In this sense, a potential avenue for reform may represent the development of regionally sensitive bibliometric indicators that are apt to more accurately reflect the diversity of global scholarly ecosystems, thereby providing a more equitable basis for evaluating the impact of research. Technically, this is achievable by regional citation normalization, which develops baseline citation frequencies for specific regions and compares citation performance to these local benchmarks instead of utilizing a worldwide standard based on Anglophone citation patterns. Then, to maximize and recognize the importance of citations from reputable regional databases, including SciELO, RedALyC, CNKI, and AJOL, weighting procedures could be further developed to ensure that regional scholarship will not be structurally excluded from prominent global indexes, such as Scopus and WoS. Another direction concerns several alternative measures that could be made to operate as more inclusive to encompass regional effect indicators and local-language involvement. Impact-wise, the extent to which research influences national policy, supports regional development initiatives, or is incorporated into the educational curriculum may serve as supplementary indicators of effect, reflecting aspects of academic influence that are not represented by global citation metrics. Therefore, establishing regional impact rankings and metrics that are aligned with local epistemic values and research agendas would contribute to a fairer assessment and acknowledgment of journals (and articles) that largely address regional specificity and audiences. Additionally, co-authorship networks and research partnerships could be successfully integrated into evaluative frameworks within regions in the form of collaboration metrics that would sustain resilient regional research communities. Simultaneously, the establishment of multilingual alternative metrics (altmetrics) aggregators would optimize the visibility of non-English scholarship, providing a more comprehensive and inclusive representation of research impact and engagement. Taken together, all these reforms can operate against research underrepresentation within an epistemic framework of bibliometric evaluation that promotes a more context-sensitive, pluralistic, and equitable model of scholarly assessment in regional and international contexts.

Supported by the considerations discussed, the current study also makes way for a variety of future research directions including (1) the methodological development of regional citation metrics into global knowledge frameworks, (2) citation behaviors and practices of scholars in underrepresented regions, (3) standardization of citation counts across linguistic and geographic contexts, and (4) inquiries into how to facilitate equitable comparisons of scholarly influence to reflect the broader societal and policy implications of locally situated research. With these future research directions in mind, global knowledge metrics can be

adjusted to operate as egalitarian and more reflective of the full spectrum of scholarly research worldwide; thus, the revision of bibliometric methods becomes indispensable for the fair evaluation of the impact of research and the establishment of a truly global intellectual community in which all knowledge creators are actively engaged.

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