

OPIICS 2019

International Conference of Psychology, Sociology, Education, and Social Sciences

BIBLIOMETRIC MAPPING OF THE GROWTH OF THE LITERATURE ON INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGIES

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Abstract

Teaching has been centred on teaching knowledge and contents, but recently, different professionals have changed their teaching procedures. The attention is more on innovation as a means to improve the teaching-learning processes. Today, society in general, but especially the new generations, are developing a close relationship with the technology that surrounds them. For the case analyzed, the period between 2013 and 2018 was taken into account. Undoubtedly, new technologies have influenced the quality and quantity of teaching, learning and research in educational institutions. The collection of data is based on articles published in scientific journals indexed in WoS (Web of Science), being the database with the highest international scientific recognition. During the research carried out, a bibliometric analysis was made available around innovative methodologies in the field of education. Bibliometric is one of the most important measures for the evaluation of scientific productions. Bibliometric indicators have become essential for the scientific community to estimate the state of the art of a field. Results show a growth of this type of research in recent years. In addition, shows a growth trend in this type of research, both in articles and in meetings. It also shows the predominance of the English language in the international scientific field. Regarding the gender, the male authors stand out with respect to women.

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Keywords: Bibliometrics, innovation, methodology, methods, educational.



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1. Introduction

Traditionally, teaching has been centred on teaching knowledge and contents. Recently, different professionals have taken their teaching procedures to another level, thus guiding their teaching method on the consecution of key competences, as it is reflected in the Spanish educational law (*Ley Orgánica para la mejora de la calidad educativa*, LOMCE, 2013). Teachers have been working on them since them in their classes.

Some researchers also started to work on this, not only with students, but also with teachers. Teacher training and activities have been concentrated more on learning and knowledge and less on learning to live or on being and doing. In a research by Palomares (2014) the aim was to foster the emotional competence of future teachers offering experiences on the importance of a more reflective, ecological and credible professional development.

Ascione, Di Palma and Rosa (2019) also believe in supporting the experimentation of new and integrated educational methods to promote the development of knowledge.

Therefore, something is changing in the way education is been understood nowadays. Students have to learn how to learn, they have to learn by doing and they have to build their knowledge (Rodríguez García & Ramírez López, 2014).

But not only researchers have focused on how the students learn, some of them have focused on the essence of innovations and the application they have in teaching in connection with the student's educational outcomes (Kolomiets & Litvinova, 2019).

Many researches work on different ways of innovation as a means of learning. Thus, Vaquero, and Lorenzo (2009) in their research analyzed an innovative experience related to a collaborative learning methodology in the postgraduate training of nursing professionals. Serrano Marugán, Palomares Ruiz, and Garrote Rojas (2013) also worked on analyzing types of schooling innovations, which are used to give an inclusive attention to students with visual disability. Therefore, we can see that educational innovation is related to the needs we can find, the need to improve and learning itself as it is seen in several researches (Henderson, 2008).

The use of effective strategies of learning depends on several aspects, and one of them is the students' motivation, which is understood as something that directs people toward the goals (Pintrich & Schunk, 2006).

Nowadays, as a reaction to the problems found about teachers' and students' demotivation, the social, political and technological changes, there is a change among the teaching methods. Among the innovative methodologies most used in class we can find gamification (De Freitas, 2018; Deterding, Dixon, Khaled, & Nacke, 2011; Lister, 2015; Werbach, 2014), problem-based learning (Mookherjee & Cosgrove, 2005; Overton, 2016), project-based learning (Reitmeier, 2002; Willard & Duffrin, 2003) or flipped learning (Sánchez, 2017; Seery, 2015; Zainuddin, Habiburrahim, Muluk, & Keumala, 2019). Through these innovative ways of teaching and learning, the active participation of the student is promoted, so that their learning is meaningful outcomes (Kolomiets & Litvinova, 2019).

2. Problem Statement

This work is dedicated to know and analyse the scientific literature available around innovative methodologies in order to analyse their production and provide researchers with possible ways of studying.

3. Research Questions

Following similar research, the research questions are extracted the classic research questions for this type of studies (Arguimbau-Vivó, Fuentes-Pujol, & Gallifa-Calatayud, 2013; Sánchez & Blanco, 2016):

RQ1. What is the diachronic growth of the methodologies?

RQ2. What is the main language of publication?

RQ3. Which magazines and meetings are the biggest producers?

RQ4. Which are the most productive authors and their gender?

RQ5. Which are the most productive countries?

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to know and analyse the scientific literature available around innovative methodologies in order to analyse their production and provide researchers with possible ways of studying.

5. Research Methods

During the research, a scientometric analysis was conducted around innovative methodologies in the field of education. Scientometrics is one of the most important measures for the evaluation of scientific productions. Scientometric indicators have become essential for the scientific community to estimate the state of the art of a given topic (Sanches-Marques, Lolis, Arruda Reis, & Benedito, 2009).

In this research, the period taken into account between 2013 and 2018. The data collection is based on articles published in scientific journals indexed in WoS (Web of Science), being the database with the highest international scientific recognition (Jiménez Noblejas & Perianes Rodríguez, 2014), the rest of the documents found, such as papers, reviews, or books are discarded from the results.

5.1. Procedure

The search for the documents was conducted in two phases. In the first one, an exploratory search is carried out using keywords (Table 1) with the filters and inclusion criteria established previously. In a second phase, these results are filtered again, manually, in order to eliminate duplicates or discard misclassified documents. The final sample was 1384 documents.

Table 01. Keywords and search filters

	Keywords	Filters
Innovative methodologies	(("innovative methodologies") OR ("innovative teaching"))	Years: (2013 - 2018) Document type: Articles In SCI-expanded, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI.

6. Findings

We present the results obtained during the study of the literature on innovative methodologies with respect to each of the research questions that we propose

6.1. Diachronic growth of the methodologies

As shown in Figure 1, the growth of articles on virtual reality is increasing, with a progression of $y = 7,9429x + 202,87$ ($R^2 = 0.1986$). Although, in 2017-2018 the trend is decreasing, the rest of the years the increase was positive, reaching in 2017, 286 indexed publications on the web of science.

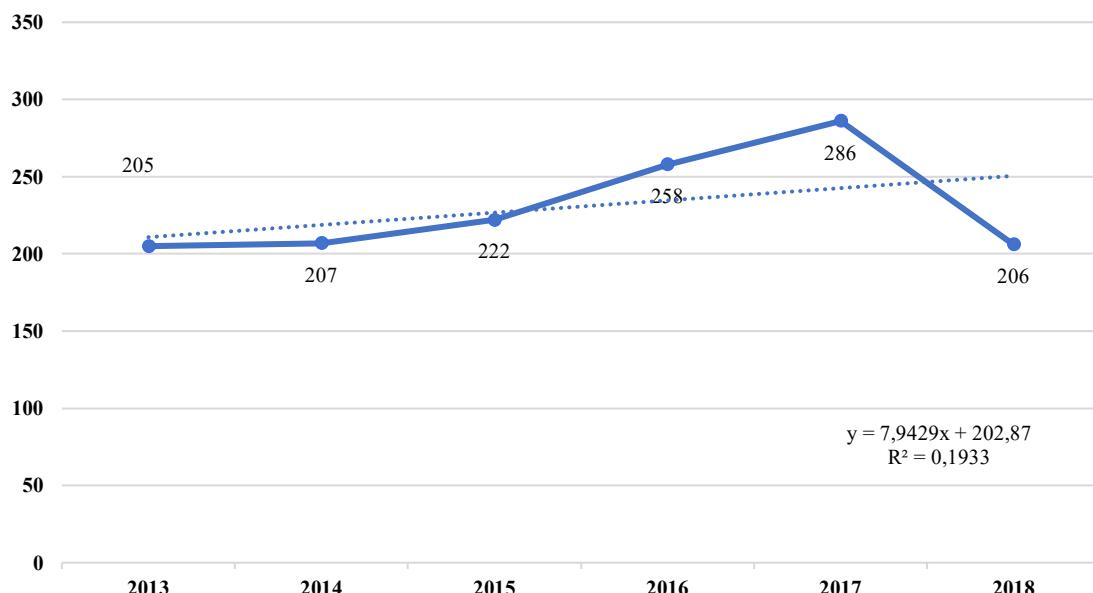


Figure 01. Diachronic growth of studies on innovative methodologies in education

6.2. Language of publications

When we make an analysis of the scientific literature, another of the fundamental aspects that must be analyzed is the language in which they are developed. As shown in Figure 2, the predominant language is English with 66%, leaving the other languages relegated to 14% (which includes Spanish as third language with 6.28%).

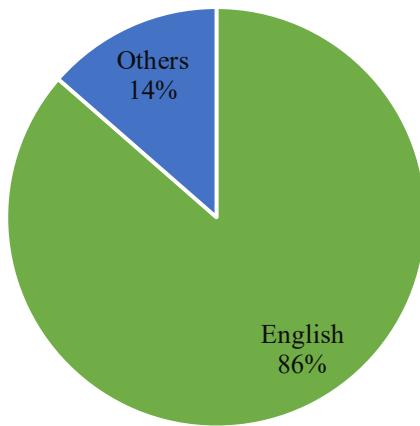


Figure 02. Language of publication of literature

6.3. Accumulation according to journals

The results, shown in table 2, show the most productive journals, or core journals. In the case that concerns us, that of virtual reality in education highlights four core journals that accumulate 62 scientific articles. Among the journals with the highest impact calculated according to the criteria established by JCR (Journal Citation Reports), we highlight the Journal of Nursing Education (IF = 1.185). In connection with meetings, stand INTED Proceedings (73) and Advances in Social Science Education and Humanities Research (61).

Table 02. Core journals and meetings for analysed articles

Journal	Resources	%*	IF**
Journal of Nursing Education	26	3.60 %	1.185
Journal of Marketing Education	13	1.60%	---
Nursing Education Perspectives	12	1.48 %	---
Science and Education	11	1.36%	1.265
Meetings			
INTED Proceedings	73	12.22%	---
Advances in Social Science Education and Humanities Research	61	10.21%	---
EDULEARN Proceedings	49	8.20%	---
ICERI Proceedings	41	6.86%	---

* Percentage based on the total number of journals in its field. ** Impact factor calculated with JCR criteria for 2017

6.4. Accumulation according to key authors

Usually we can see scientific knowledge around a specific topic in different key authors. Lotka (1926), who showed that there are few authors where high production is concentrated while the rest, the bulk of the research is centered on authors who publish on the subject in a timely manner, already described this effect.

As shown in table 3, two authors Henderson and Paredes stand out with 5 publications related to innovative methodologies in education. Regarding sex, it is observed that the majority of authors are men with twenty-six resources. On the other hand, the percentage of women producers is located at a much lower value with four resources generated.

Table 03. List of key authors and gender

Authors	Resources	Gender
Henderson, Charles	5	M
Paredes, Sergio D.	5	M
Dutta, Anirban	4	M
Garcia, Carlos	4	M
Pena-Fernandez, Antonio	4	M
Zhang, Da	4	M
Zhu, Chang	4	W

6.5. Accumulation according to country

According to the country, the English-speaking countries stand out (figure 3), the bulk of the resources found originated in China with 26.07% of the total publications, followed by USA with 25.83%, Spain with 26.07% and Italy with 9%.

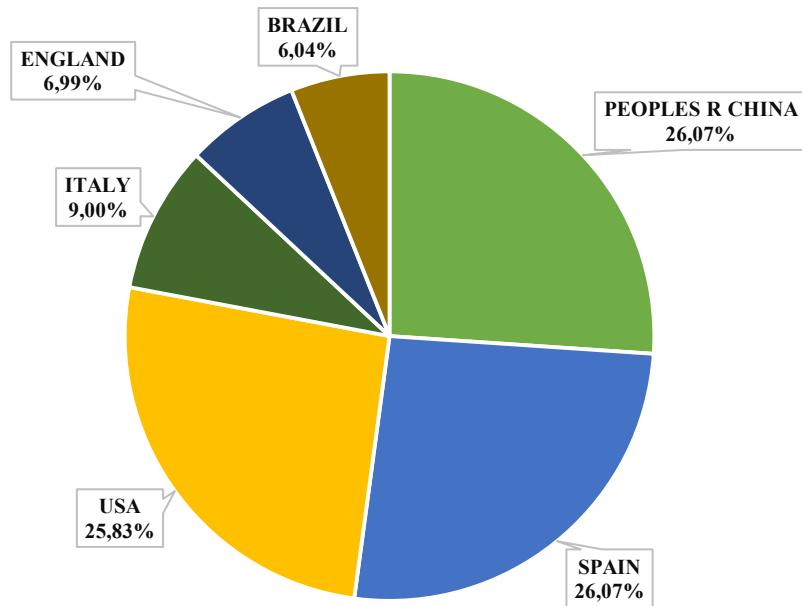


Figure 03. Percentage of publications depending on the country

7. Conclusion

We must make reference to that not always the little production detected in this type of analysis is directly related to a low scientific interest, but it can be due to other factors such as the development of technology or conceptual youth in the field studied (Wang, 2018).

Regarding the language in which they develop most of these productions or scientific knowledge is the English language. Although there are other large science producing countries such as China or Spain, the obligation to publish in both languages means that, in one way or another, all the research generated is shared in English, relegating Spanish and other languages to a second level. This phenomenon is caused by the penalties of the databases themselves, in this case the WOS, to non-English languages (Aleixandre Benavent, Valderrama Zurián, Miguel-Dasit, & de Granda Orive, 2004; Ramakrishnan, Sankar, & Thavamani, 2018).

There is also a gender gap. We find many career researchers, but few women in academic leadership positions, as principal investigators (Bendels et al., 2018). However, this gender gap has narrowed in the last decade and is likely to be further reduced in the future (Campos-Castillo, 2015).

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