



## Beyond Politics and Economic Development: The Academic Contextualization of the AK Party's Rule in Turkiye

Ihsan Karlı

M. Kabir Hassan

Zobayer Ahmed

Jahidul Islam Sarker

Md. Nazmul Islam

Md. Tarequl Islam

**Abstract:** The study ventures into the intriguing divergence between academic discourse and the AK Party's political and economic strategies, which have been pivotal in its success in national elections. This research, through a meticulous bibliometric analysis of 116 articles on the AK Party's rule in Turkiye, uncovers this deviation. By analyzing the most frequent words, most cited articles, major areas of research, and thematic analyses, the study dissects scholarly narratives and identifies gaps, particularly in the economic domain. It underscores how the interplay between these elements shapes the electoral landscape and the AK Party's sustained success. Importantly, this study paves the way for future research, which holds the promise of further enlightening both academic and policy-making domains on the interplay between economics and politics in the Turkish context.

**Keywords:** AK Party (Parti), Bibliometric Analysis, Economic Development, Politics, Turkiye (Turkey)

Assoc. Prof., Kocaeli University, [ikarli@kocaeli.edu.tr](mailto:ikarli@kocaeli.edu.tr), 0000-0002-3099-4865

Prof., University of New Orleans, [mhassan@uno.edu](mailto:mhassan@uno.edu), 0000-0001-6274-3545

Asst. Prof., International Islamic University Chittagong, [ecozobayer@gmail.com](mailto:ecozobayer@gmail.com), 0000-0002-3168-6055



Researcher, Kocaeli University, [jahidduasia@yahoo.com](mailto:jahidduasia@yahoo.com), 0000-0003-3405-0957

Asst. Prof., Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, [nazmulislamglobal71@gmail.com](mailto:nazmulislamglobal71@gmail.com), 0000-0002-8660-0415

Ph.D. Candidate, Aksaray University, [tareqmdis23@gmail.com](mailto:tareqmdis23@gmail.com), 0000-0003-0369-2121



© Research Center for Islamic Economics

DOI: 10.26414/A4114

TUJISE, x(x), 2024, xx-xx

[tujise.org](http://tujise.org)



Received: 04.07.2023

Revised: 19.02.2024

Accepted: 18.04.2024

Online First: 03.05.2024



## Introduction

The interplay between economic development and political strategy weaves a complex tapestry that not only shapes but is also shaped by governmental policies. This intricate relationship is particularly pronounced in the context of Türkiye under the rule of the Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (AKP, hereafter AK Party) since 2002. This era, marked by significant political and economic transformations, offers a fertile ground for scholarly analysis. This paper, through a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of 116 articles published during this period, presents a nuanced overview of the divergence between academic discourse and political and economic strategies. It underscores the depth and complexity of the interplay between economics and politics, as well as the AK Party's profound influence on Türkiye's socio-economic landscape.

The repeated success of a political party in national elections can be attributed to various factors. Research on the success of Islamist-rooted parties like the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) in Türkiye suggests that religiosity and performance play crucial roles in electoral success (Gidengil & Karakoç, 2014). Additionally, the success of extreme right parties in Western Europe has been linked to factors such as immigration and unemployment (Golder, 2003). Among the other factors that connect repeated wins in national elections are gender quotas and electoral laws (Jones, 2008), performance in sub-national-level elections (Hijino, 2015), and the broader political environment (Manning & Smith, 2016).

The AK Party's tenure, starting in 2002, heralded a period of profound change in Türkiye, both economically and politically. This era witnessed substantial economic growth alongside notable shifts in political strategies and alignments, both domestically and internationally. Understanding how these changes have been conceptualized and debated in academic literature is crucial for a holistic interpretation of Türkiye's recent history and development dynamics.

The study sets out to achieve the following objectives:

1. To explore the connections between economic growth, political tactics, and educational emphases concerning the consistent electoral success of a governing party, with a specific focus on Türkiye.
2. To identify the principal themes of scholarly inquiry related to the governance of the AK Party in Türkiye, a party that has secured victory in elections consistently over the past two decades.

The study tries to answer the following research questions (RQs).

RQ1. Does the economic strategy a ruling party adopts significantly influence its continuous success in general elections?

RQ2. Which area of academic studies was predominantly focused on the AK party in Türkiye?

RQ3. To what extent has the AK Party's economic policies been the subject of academic research?

RQ4. What keywords are most frequently associated with studies on the AK Party in Türkiye?

This research is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it provides an empirical overview of the academic perspectives on the AK Party's governance, a subject of considerable interest to political science, economics, and international relations scholars. Secondly, by employing bibliometric analysis, this study quantifies and visualizes trends, themes, and gaps in the existing literature, offering a unique lens through which to view the complex interplay between politics and economics in Türkiye.

The paper is organized as follows. Following this introduction, the next section provides a detailed review of the literature and the conceptual framework. Section 3 outlines the methodology, including data collection and analytical techniques. Section 4 presents the results of the bibliometric analysis, followed by a discussion in Section 5 that interprets these findings in the context of Türkiye's political and economic environment under the AK Party. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper with a summary of the findings, implications for future research agenda, and policy considerations.

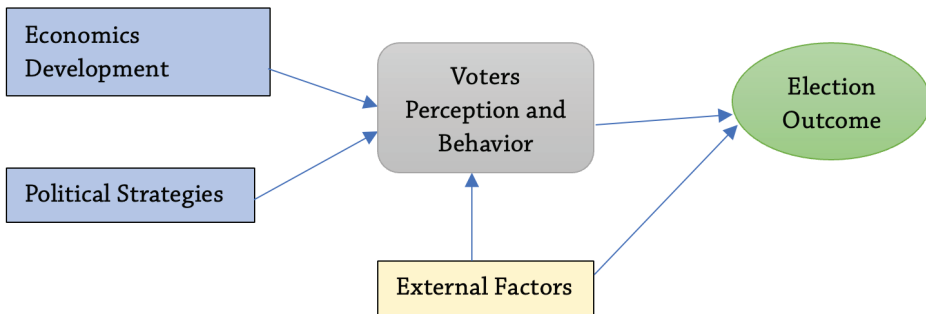
## **Literature Review and the Conceptual Framework**

Many factors, including economic conditions, political ideology, policy responses to economic crises, campaign spending, and the dynamics of international politics influence the outcome of national elections. Research has shown that economic performance plays a significant role in election outcomes, with studies analyzing the impact of economic conditions on election results (Akarca & Tansel, 2006; Mitchell & Willett, 2006). Additionally, the general ideology of the incumbent party or coalition and specific policy choices in response to economic crises have been identified as crucial factors in electoral responses to economic challenges (Bartels et al., 2014).

Furthermore, campaign strategies and tactics are influential in explaining election outcomes, with party elite perceptions emphasizing the importance of core political factors in shaping election results (Strömbäck, Grandien, & Falasca, 2012). Additionally, the effect of political donations on election outcomes has been the subject of extensive research, highlighting the significance of campaign spending in influencing electoral results (Gerber, 1998; Wang, 2022). Moreover, the relationship between election outcomes and perceptions of personal economic well-being has been studied, indicating the role of individual economic perceptions in shaping election results (Glasgow & Weber, 2005).

International dynamics have also been found to impact national election outcomes, with research highlighting the interplay between national and international politics in shaping election results (Kleine & Minaudier, 2017). Furthermore, the influence of regional elections in multi-level systems on national election outcomes has been explored, emphasizing the interconnectedness of regional and national political dynamics (Jeffery & Hough, 2003).

Figure 1 shows the interaction among economic development, political strategies, and election outcomes. Both political strategies and economic development initiatives of the party in power play significant roles in shaping the voters' perceptions and behavior. Moreover, external factors also directly and indirectly determine election outcomes by changing voters' perceptions and behavior (Sieberer, 2013; Tolstrup, 2015). The final election outcome is thus determined by the combined effect of the external factors and the voters' perception and behaviour.



**Figure 1:** Economic development, political strategies, and election outcome (Authors' sketch based on literature)

In conclusion, the outcome of national elections is shaped by a complex interplay of economic, political, and international factors, including economic perfor-

mance, political ideology, campaign strategies, international dynamics, and regional political dynamics. Understanding these multifaceted influences is crucial for comprehensively analyzing the dynamics of national election outcomes.

## Data and Methodology

Data source: The current research uses the Web of Science's (WOS) primary collection to amass knowledge about the published literature. WOS is a globally recognized Clarivate Analytics-managed academic platform that provides access to more than 50 million articles published in peer-reviewed journals across various research disciplines. The WOS core collection comprises papers that date back to 1996 (Merigó, Mas-Tur, Roig-Tierno, & Ribeiro-Soriano, 2015). Moreover, in Turkish academia, especially the Turkish higher education authority records, WOS was more valued than other popular indexes till 2022. Eventually, WOS will have more papers on the AK party in Türkiye than other options such as SCOPUS. In addition, the database contains better-quality publications than many other free databases.

Data collection: The study utilizes SALSA steps to collect data from the WOS. The following table describes various steps involved in data collection.

- Topic: "AK Parti" or "AKP"
- Timespan: 2003–2020

In this study, we applied the SALSA framework (Papaioannou, Sutton, Carroll, Booth, & Wong, 2010), which stands for Search, Appraisal, Synthesis, and Analysis. It is a four-step procedure for unbiased data analysis. The data was collected on 26 March 2022. During the first stage of the search, we ensure not to miss any relevant items or parameters. Papaioannou et al., 2010 advised using broader and more general key phrases and criteria for the initial search. A total of 116 documents were identified utilizing data from the WOS data collection using the terms 'AK Parti' OR 'AKP' AND Erdogan in the title, abstract, and keywords of published publications from 2003 to 2020. We eventually decided to save articles and book chapters in English and Turkish.

**Table 1***SALSA steps*

Step	Search Item	Extension	Number of Documents
Search	“AK party” OR ‘AKP’ OR “AK Parti”	AND Erdogan	333
Appraisal	AND publication year 2003-2020	Categories Area Studies OR Political Science OR Religion OR Economics OR Social Science/ Multidisciplinary	274
Synthesis	AND ‘Article’ AND ‘Book Chapter’ AND ‘English’ AND ‘Turkish’	Marked list (only relevant) by reading of titles and abstracts manually	116
Analysis	Bibliometric Analysis	Content Analysis	116

Nature of Analysis: This work uses bibliometric analysis to measure, assess, and synthesize the existing literature of the AK Party in Türkiye. Researchers have previously employed bibliometric approaches to measure publication activity in many disciplines (Araújo, Pedron, & Picoto, 2018; Hassan, İslam, Ahmed, & Sarkar, 2023; Pasadeos & Renfro, 1992). The bibliometric analysis employs an objective and quantifiable perspective to designate, evaluate, and track research activity within a domain and record the linkages using a systematic, transparent, and uniform review approach (Chen & Xiao, 2016).

## Results and Analysis

### Summary of the data

This paper revealed 116 documents between 2003 and 2020. These works were published in 26 different publications and garnered 1,244 citations.

The data from the WOS core collection is summarized in Table 2. There are 116 papers in the dataset, comprising 98 articles and 12 book chapters. The average

number of citations in a single document is 11.5. When the entire 17-year period is analyzed, the average number of citations per document is determined to be below. There are 74 single-authored documents and 52 multi-authored documents among the documents. These numbers show that solo writers have done more studies on AK Parti than joint works. The results in Table 2 demonstrate the importance of collaboration among scholars and promoting the discipline inside academia.

According to the bibliometric analysis, AK Party literature is characterized by poor production, medium average citations per document, and low author collaboration.

**Table 2**

*Key information about data*

Description	Results	Description	Results
Timespan	2003:2020	<b>AUTHORS</b>	
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	62	Authors	126
Documents	116	Author Appearances	136
Average years from publication	5.8	Authors of single-authored documents	74
Average citations per document	11.5	Authors of multi-authored documents	52
Average citations per year per doc	1.554	<b>AUTHORS COLLABORATION</b>	
References	4288	Single-authored documents	82
<b>DOCUMENT TYPES</b>		<b>Documents per Author</b>	
article	92	Authors per Document	1.17
article; book chapter	12	Co-Authors per Documents	1.26
article; early access	4	Collaboration Index	2

## Historical Series Analysis

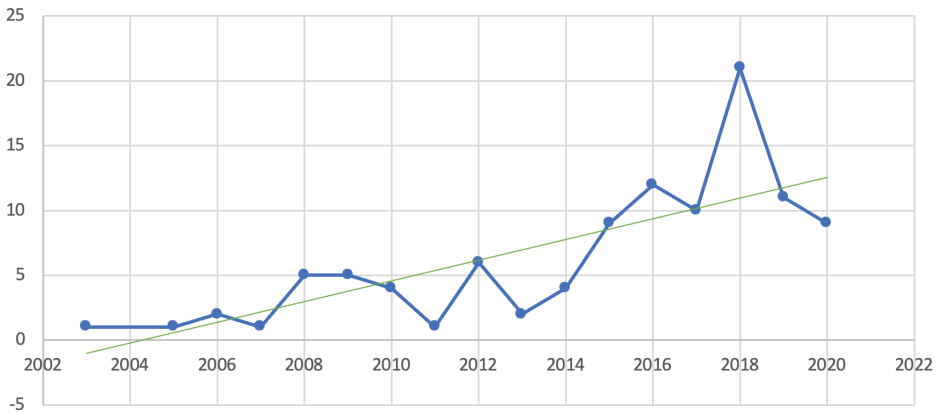
Figure 2 shows the annual scientific production concerning the AK Party in Turkiye as indexed by Web of Science (WoS) publications from 2002 to 2022. The green trend line demonstrates an overall increase in publications over the two-decade period.

Initially 2002, the number of publications was quite low, starting at under 5. A gradual ascent is apparent from this point until a minor decline occurs around 2008. However, this decline was short-lived, as the trend resumed its upward trajectory shortly thereafter. A significant peak is observable in 2020, where the num-

ber of publications reached over 20, dwarfing the figures from all previous years. This spike suggests a heightened academic interest in the AK Party during that year. Following this peak, there is a sharp decline to a level that, while still higher than the starting figures, represents a substantial reduction from the 2020 maximum.

Despite the fluctuations, the green trend line illustrates that the average number of publications has been on an incline, indicating an increasing academic interest in the AK Party’s rule in Turkiye. The trend line smooths out the annual variations to clearly indicate the general upward direction when viewed from a long-term perspective.

Overall, the line graph conveys a growing trend in academic research related to the AK Party, with the most notable feature being the extraordinary surge in 2020, followed by a subsequent fall. This fluctuating pattern invites questions about the possible reasons behind such variations, which could be attributed to political events, policy changes, or shifts in the academic interest surrounding Turkish politics, specially the AK Party.



**Figure 2:** Annual production of articles

### Most Frequent Words

In bibliometric analysis, the most frequent words represent the major issues covered by the existing research. Word clouds are visual representations used to depict the frequency or importance of words within a text, with the size of each word indicating its prevalence or significance in the analyzed content. The word cloud suggests that the meta-analysis covers a broad range of topics related to the AK Party, including its political and economic strategies, ideological foundations, impact on democracy and justice, and both domestic and international implications of its governance. Visualization quickly conveys the most discussed themes within the academic literature on the subject.





**Figure 3:** Most frequent words

Central themes of the sample article, the most prominent words, such as “justice,” “politics,” “democracy,” “Islam,” “development,” and “party,” suggest these are central themes in the literature about the AK Party. Their large size means they occur frequently in the text corpus analyzed. However, words like “elections,” “state,” “political economy,” and “authoritarianism” point to a significant focus on the political aspects of the AK Party’s rule, including discussions on their governance style, economic policies, and election strategies.

Moreover, the words “justice” and “Islam” are notably large, which may indicate a strong association with the party’s identity and policy-making. This could reflect the AK Party’s emphasis on justice in their political discourse and the role of Islam in their ideology and governance. Terms like “foreign policy” and “EU” suggest that the party’s international relations, particularly with the European Union and its stance on foreign policy, are also significant discussion topics.

Some keywords indicate the reform and transformation as the presence of words like “transformation,” “reforms,” and “globalization” indicates an academic interest in how the AK Party has influenced changes within Turkiye’s political and economic systems in the context of global trends. Further, the socio-political context is also indicated by words such as “women,” “Middle East,” and “Islamism,”

which may reflect discussions on social policies, the role of women in Turkish society, and the broader Middle Eastern context of the AK Party's policies. Dynamics and Preferences: Terms like "preferences," "dynamics," "rise," and "era" suggest an analysis of the changing political landscape in Türkiye, voter preferences, and the rise of the AK Party during a specific era.

### Most Globally Cited Publications

The table titled "Most globally cited 10 documents" lists articles that have been frequently cited in literature related to the AK Party in Türkiye. The analysis of the titles and total citations suggests several core themes and areas of focus related to the AK Party.

- **Foreign Policy and International Relations:** Titles such as "Between Europeanization and Euro-Asianism: Foreign Policy Activism in Türkiye during the AK Parti Era" and "Türkiye's Davutoğlu era under AK Party rule: From Protector to imposer of State ideology?" indicate a strong academic interest in how the AK Party has shaped Türkiye's foreign policy and its positioning between European influences and Asian partnerships.
- **Political Ideology and Democracy:** The focus on the ideological aspects of the AK Party is evident in titles like "Islamism, Democracy and Liberalism in Türkiye: The Case of the AKP," "The AK Parti and Normalizing Democracy in Türkiye," and "Islamist Parties and Democracy: Türkiye's AK Parti in Power." These articles likely discuss the party's political philosophy, its impact on democracy, and the interplay between Islamism and liberal values.
- **Gender and Social Policies:** An examination of social policy under the AK Party's rule is suggested by titles such as "New Goods for Patriarchy in Türkiye? Gender Policy in the Age of AK Parti" and "Women at the Intersection of the Westernist, Islamist and Feminist Discourses in Türkiye." These topics might explore gender dynamics, the status of women, and the discourse around feminism within the political framework established by the AK Party.
- **Transformation and Reform:** Articles like "Türkiye's Transformation Under the AK Parti Rule" and "AK Parti Reform Fatigue in Türkiye: What has happened to the EU Process?" focus on the transformative period under the AK Party, with particular attention to reforms and the evolving relationship with the European Union.

- Party Politics and Governance: The internal dynamics and governance style of the AK Party are subjects of interest, as seen in “Türkiye’s AK Parti: A Model ‘Muslim-Democratic’ Party?” and “Party Politics of the AK Parti (2002–2007) and the Predicaments of Power.”

**Table 3**

*Most global cited 10 documents*

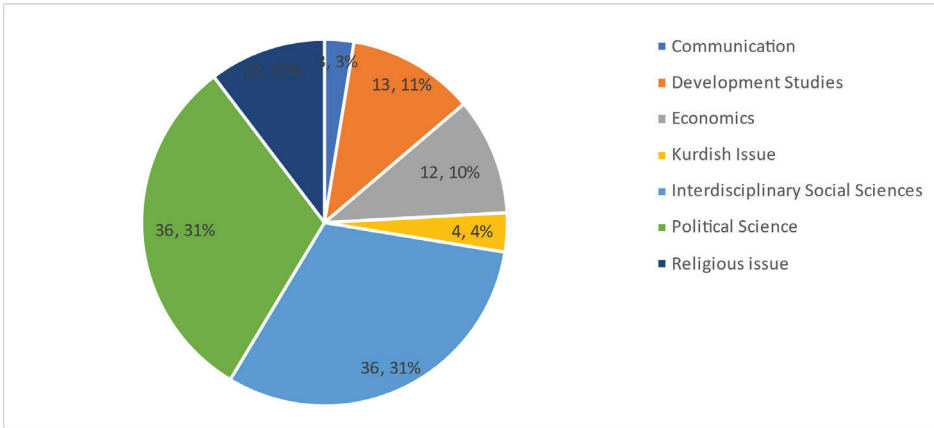
Author(s)	Title	Total Citations (2020)	TC per Year
(Onis & Yilmaz, 2009)	Between Europeanization and Euro-Asi-anism: Foreign Policy Activism in Türki-ye during the AK Parti Era	117	9
(Kaya, 2015)	Islamisation of Türkiye under the AK Parti Rule: Empowering Family, Faith and Charity	79	11.286
(Cosar & Yege-noglu, 2011)	New Grounds for Patriarchy in Türkiye? Gender Policy in the Age of AK Parti	69	6.273
(Insel, 2003)	The AK Parti and Normalizing Democracy in Türkiye	64	3.368
(Tepe, 2005)	Türkiye’s AK Parti: A Model “Muslim-De-mocratic” Party?	57	3.353
(Cinar, 2006)	Türkiye’s Transformation Under the AK Parti Rule	51	3.188
(Patton, 2007)	AK Parti Reform Fatigue in Türkiye: What has happened to the EU Process?	46	3.067
(Dagi, 2008)	Islamist Parties and Democracy: Türkiye’s AK Parti in Power	46	3.286
(Ozturk, 2016)	Türkiye’s Diyanet under AK Parti rule: from protector to imposer of state ideology?	37	6.167
(Ayata & Tuetu-encue, 2008)	Party Politics of the AK Parti (2002–2007) and the Predicaments of Women at the Intersection of the Westernist, Islamist and Feminist Discourses in Türkiye	33	2.357

A common theme across the articles is exploring the AK Party's influence on Türkiye's national identity and its intersection with various domains such as politics, international relations, democracy, and social policies. These frequently cited articles reflect a scholarly preoccupation with the AK Party's role in redefining Türkiye's internal and external policies, ideological stance, and social reforms. The AK Party's tenure is characterized by significant changes that have prompted a broad spectrum of academic discussions assessing the party's impact on Türkiye's evolution in the modern era.

### **The Major Areas of Research**

The pie chart in Figure 4 presents the distribution of 116 academic articles focusing on the AK Party across different academic disciplines. The articles are spread over seven distinct fields.

Firstly, Political Science and Development Studies command the largest shares, each comprising 31% of the total, equating to 36 articles in each discipline. This indicates a significant interest in the AK Party's influence on political dynamics and developmental issues. Secondly, communication and Economics are represented equally, each accounting for 10% of the articles, translating into 12 articles per discipline. This suggests moderate scholarly attention to the AK Party's impact on media and economic policies or performance. Thirdly, the Kurdish issue, represented by 13 articles, makes up 11% of the total, demonstrating a noteworthy focus on this specific regional and ethnic topic within the context of the AK Party's policies or actions. Fourthly, interdisciplinary Social Sciences and Religious issues are the least represented categories. The former encompasses 4% of the articles, with only four articles attributed to this discipline, while the latter includes three articles, constituting a 3% share. These smaller segments highlight a more niche focus within the broader academic interest in the AK Party.



**Figure 4:** Area of research

In summary, the chart illustrates a diverse but uneven academic exploration of the AK Party, with particular emphasis on Political Science and Development Studies. This reflects the party's significant role in shaping Turkiye's political landscape and development agenda. While less represented, other disciplines indicate a multi-faceted academic engagement with the AK Party's multifarious impact on Turkish society and beyond.

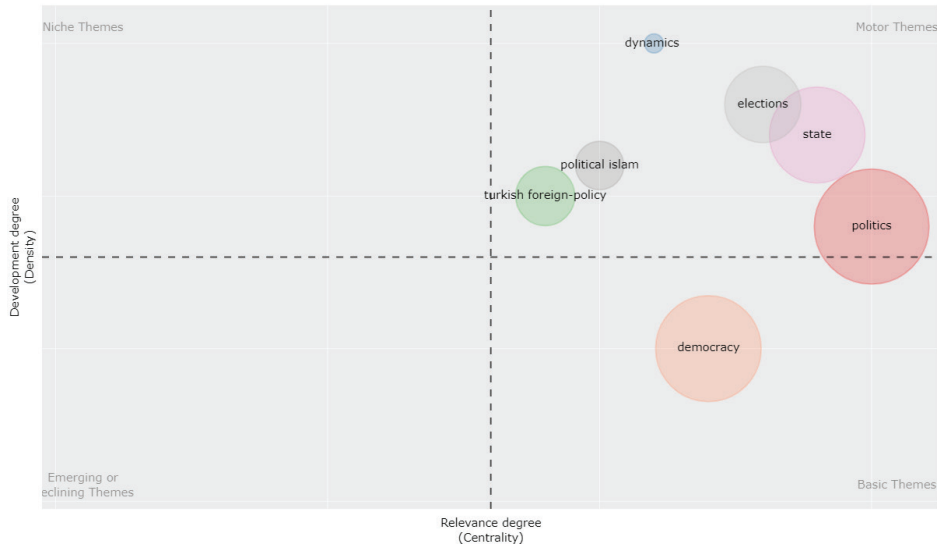
### Thematic Map Analysis

The thematic map categorizes topics into four quadrants based on their centrality (relevance) and developmental degree. The upper-right quadrant showcases 'Motor Themes,' which are well-developed and central to the field. The lower-right quadrant features 'Basic Themes,' which are central but less developed. The 'Emerging or Declining Themes' are in the lower-left quadrant, indicating neither well-developed nor central. Finally, the upper-left quadrant contains 'Niche Themes,' which are well-developed but not central to the field (Cobo, López-Herrera, Herrera-Viedma, & Herrera, 2011).

The theme of 'politics' is the most prominent, positioned in the 'Motor Themes' quadrant, suggesting it is a highly developed and central topic in the literature. 'Elections' and 'state' are also within this quadrant but are smaller in size, indicating they are of lesser centrality and development than 'politics.' The 'Basic Themes' quadrant contains only 'democracy,' indicating it is a central topic but not as developed as those in the 'Motor Themes' quadrant. Its position and size suggest it's a

foundational aspect of the discourse but may have yet to reach the level of maturity in terms of research as the motor themes.

No themes are present in the ‘Emerging or Declining Themes’ quadrant, suggesting that there are no topics in the dataset that are considered marginal or in flux. Lastly, ‘political Islam’ and ‘Turkish foreign policy’ are located in the ‘Niche Themes’ quadrant, implying that while they are well-developed themes, they are not as central in the discourse as the other topics.



**Figure5:** The thematic map

In summary, the thematic map indicates that ‘politics’ is the dominant theme in discussions related to the AK Party. The other topics such as ‘elections,’ ‘state,’ ‘democracy,’ ‘political Islam,’ and ‘Turkish foreign-policy’ also contribute to the discourse but to varying degrees of centrality and development. The absence of themes in the ‘Emerging or Declining’ quadrant suggests that the current discourse is stable with no new emerging or rapidly declining themes.

## Discussion and Future Research Directions

### Discussion

The bibliometric analysis of the AK Party-related academic literature reveals a multidimensional focus on various aspects of the party’s impact on Türkiye. The historical trend analysis shows the overall progress of academic focus on the role of

the AK Party in Turkiye. Frequent terms such as “justice,” “politics,” “democracy,” “Islam,” “development,” and “party” demonstrate the broad spectrum of scholarly interest, ranging from the party’s ideological underpinnings to its governance and policy implications.

The most cited articles reflect a concentrated academic inquiry into Turkiye’s foreign policy dynamics, the interplay between political Islam and liberal democratic values, the AK Party’s approach to gender and social policies, and the significant reforms undertaken during its rule. These topics outline the party’s domestic political strategies and its broader influence on Turkiye’s positioning in the international arena.

On the contrary, the academic discipline-based analysis revealed that with particular emphasis on Political Science and Development Studies, reflecting the party’s significant role in shaping Turkiye’s political landscape and development agenda. Other disciplines, while less represented, indicate a multifaceted academic engagement with the AK Party’s multifarious impact on Turkish society and beyond.

The thematic analysis categorizes the academic coverage into four quadrants, with ‘politics’ emerging as a motor theme, indicating its central and well-developed nature. Themes such as ‘elections’ and ‘state’ also feature prominently, albeit to a lesser degree, suggesting that while significant, there may be room for further exploration. The positioning of ‘democracy’ as a basic theme signals it as a foundational element of the discourse, requiring deeper academic engagement to reach the developmental maturity of motor themes. ‘Political Islam’ and ‘Turkish foreign policy’ emerge as niche themes, pointing to specialized yet critical domains of study.

## Future Research Directions

Considering that economic development issues are less emphasized in the academic discourse on the AK Party than socio-political themes, future research can delve into various dimensions of the AK Party’s economic development strategies and their impact on electoral success. Here are some suggested directions for future research:

- **Economic Policy and Electoral Outcomes:** An in-depth analysis of how the AK Party’s economic policies may have influenced voter behavior and contributed to its electoral victories can be conducted in the future to enrich the body of knowledge on how electoral outcomes are affected by the economic policies of a party in power.

- **Comparative Economic Models:** A comparative study of the AK Party's economic model against other political parties' approaches within Türkiye, or similar parties in other countries, can be undertaken to ascertain unique or effective strategies.
- **Rural and Urban Economic Development:** Future research may focus on the AK Party's impact on rural versus urban economic development and how these have influenced voting patterns in different regions.
- **Economic Reforms and Social Welfare:** Studies on the relationship between the AK Party's economic reforms, social welfare programs, and their influence on the party's popularity among various socio-economic demographics can be conducted to identify their influence on electoral success.
- **Income Inequality and Redistribution Policies:** Examining the AK Party's approach to income inequality and the effectiveness of its redistribution policies requires exploring these issues' electoral implications.
- **Sustainability and Green Economy:** Future research could also explore the AK Party's strategies for sustainable development and transition to a green economy, particularly how the electorate perceives these strategies.
- **Global Economic Integration:** Analysis of the AK Party's efforts at integrating Türkiye's economy with global markets and the resultant political and electoral consequences domestically can also be evaluated in the future.
- **Impact of Economic Crises:** Türkiye has been undergoing a severe economic crisis that stems from the continuous depreciation of its currency, Turkish Lira (TL). Investigating how the AK Party has navigated economic crises, the effectiveness of its crisis management strategies, and the subsequent effects on its electoral support can be a significant contribution to academic scholarships.
- **Investment and Innovation Policies:** Research on the AK Party's policies to promote investment, innovation, and technology and their impact on economic growth and job creation requires further investigation.
- **Labor Market Reforms:** Studies on labor market reforms initiated by the AK Party, the changing dynamics of the Turkish workforce, and the implications for the party's electoral base can be a substantial area of research.
- **Economic Development and Youth Unemployment:** Exploring the effectiveness of the AK Party's economic development strategies in addressing youth unemployment and the potential electoral impacts can be explored further.



These research directions not only fill the identified gap in the literature but also provide a nuanced understanding of the interplay between economic policy and political success. They could help to elucidate the complex relationships between government action in the economic sphere and the public's response at the ballot box.

## Conclusion

Considering the bibliometric analysis and the conceptual framework, we would assert that the literature on the AK Party primarily concentrates on socio-political elements, with economic development strategies not receiving proportional scholarly attention. This focus reflects the significant role that the party's governance, ideological stance, and policymaking have played in shaping Turkiye's political narrative. However, a stable landscape of themes indicates a lack of evolution in academic inquiry, indicating a need for more comprehensive research into the economic aspects contributing to the AK Party's electoral victories.

The established framework elucidates the interconnectedness of economic development, political strategy, and external influences on voter behavior and election outcomes. The shortfall in economic discourse suggests a gap that, if addressed, could provide critical insights into how the AK Party's economic maneuvers affect public perception and, consequently, their success at the polls. Understanding these economic narratives is imperative for forecasting the party's future electoral prospects and developing a multidimensional approach to studying Turkiye's political economy.

In light of these findings, future research should embark on a deeper investigation into the AK Party's economic policies, analyzing their impact on the electorate and Turkiye's socio-economic trajectory. This expanded analysis could offer valuable contributions to academic discourse and practical policy formulation, enriching the understanding of the interplay between economic strategy and political success in a dynamically evolving Turkiye under the AK Party.

## References

- Akarca, A. T., & Tansel, A. (2006). Economic Performance and Political Outcomes: An Analysis of the Turkish Parliamentary and Local Election Results Between 1950 and 2004. *Public Choice*. doi:10.1007/s11127-005-9013-9
- Araújo, C. C. S. d., Pedron, C. D., & Picoto, W. N. (2018). What's Behind CRM Research? A Bibliometric Analysis of Publications in the CRM Research Field. *Journal of Relationship Marketing*, 17(1), 29-51. doi:10.1080/15332667.2018.1440139
- Ayata, A. G., & Tuetuencue, F. (2008). Party Politics of the AKP (2002-2007) and the Predicaments of Women at the Intersection of the Westernist, Islamist and Feminist Discourses in Turkey. *BRITISH JOURNAL OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES*, 35(3), 363-384. doi:10.1080/13530190802525130
- Bartels, L. M., Achen, C. H., Anderson, C., Bermeo, N., Kayser, M. A., & Lindvall, J. (2014). Ideology and Retrospection in Electoral Responses to the Great Recession. doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199357505.003.0007
- Chen, G., & Xiao, L. (2016). Selecting publication keywords for domain analysis in bibliometrics: A comparison of three methods. *Journal of Informetrics*, 10(1), 212-223. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2016.01.006
- Cinar, M. (2006). Turkey's transformation under the AKP rule (Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi). *MUSLIM WORLD*, 96(3), 469-486. doi:10.1111/j.1478-1913.2006.00138.x
- Cobo, M. J., López-Herrera, A. G., Herrera-Viedma, E., & Herrera, F. (2011). An approach for detecting, quantifying, and visualizing the evolution of a research field: A practical application to the Fuzzy Sets Theory field. *Journal of Informetrics*, 5(1), 146-166. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2010.10.002
- Cosar, S., & Yegenoglu, M. (2011). New Grounds for Patriarchy in Turkey? Gender Policy in the Age of AKP. *SOUTH EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS*, 16(4), 555-573. doi:10.1080/13608746.2011.571919
- Dagi, I. (2008). Turkey's AKP in power. *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*, 19(3), 25-30.
- Gerber, A. S. (1998). Estimating the Effect of Campaign Spending on Senate Election Outcomes Using Instrumental Variables. *American Political Science Review*. doi:10.2307/2585672
- Gidengil, E., & Karakoç, E. (2014). Which Matters More in the Electoral Success of Islamist (Successor) Parties – Religion or Performance? The Turkish Case. *Party Politics*. doi:10.1177/1354068814549341
- Glasgow, G., & Weber, R. A. (2005). Is There a Relationship Between Election Outcomes and Perceptions of Personal Economic Well-Being? A Test Using Post-Election Economic Expectations. *ELECTORAL STUDIES*. doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2005.02.001
- Golder, M. (2003). Explaining Variation in the Success of Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe. *Comparative Political Studies*. doi:10.1177/0010414003251176

- Hassan, M. K., İslam, M. T., Ahmed, Z., & Sarker, J. I. (2023). Islamic banking in Bangladesh: a literature review and future research agenda. *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management, ahead-of-print*(ahead-of-print). doi:10.1108/IMEFM-05-2022-0185
- Hijino, K. V. L. (2015). Bamboo Shoots and Weak Roots: Organizational Expansion of New Parties in Japan. *Japanese Journal of Political Science*. doi:10.1017/s1468109915000195
- Insel, A. (2003). The AKP and normalizing democracy in Turkey. *SOUTH ATLANTIC QUARTERLY*, 102(2-3), 293-308. doi:10.1215/00382876-102-2-3-293
- Jeffery, C., & Hough, D. (2003). Regional Elections in Multi-Level Systems. *European Urban and Regional Studies*. doi:10.1177/09697764030103002
- Jones, M. P. (2008). Gender Quotas, Electoral Laws, and the Election of Women. *Comparative Political Studies*. doi:10.1177/0010414008324993
- Kaya, A. (2015). Islamisation of Turkey under the AKP Rule: Empowering Family, Faith and Charity. *SOUTH EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS*, 20(1), 47-69. doi:10.1080/13608746.2014.979031
- Kleine, M., & Minaudier, C. (2017). Negotiating Under Political Uncertainty: National Elections and the Dynamics of International Co-Operation. *British Journal of Political Science*. doi:10.1017/s000712341600051x
- Manning, C., & Smith, I. (2016). Political Party Formation by Former Armed Opposition Groups After Civil War. *Democratization*. doi:10.1080/13510347.2016.1159556
- Merigó, J. M., Mas-Tur, A., Roig-Tierno, N., & Ribeiro-Soriano, D. (2015). A bibliometric overview of the Journal of Business Research between 1973 and 2014. *Journal of Business Research*, 68(12), 2645-2653.
- Mitchell, D. M., & Willett, K. (2006). Local Economic Performance and Election Outcomes. *Atlantic Economic Journal*. doi:10.1007/s11293-006-9008-z
- Onis, Z., & Yilmaz, S. (2009). Between Europeanization and Euro-Asianism: Foreign Policy Activism in Turkey during the AKP Era. *TURKISH STUDIES*, 10(1), 7-24. doi:10.1080/14683840802648562
- Ozturk, A. E. (2016). Turkey's Diyanet under AKP rule: from protector to imposer of state ideology? *SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN AND BLACK SEA STUDIES*, 16(4, SI), 619-635. doi:10.1080/14683857.2016.1233663
- Papaioannou, D., Sutton, A., Carroll, C., Booth, A., & Wong, R. (2010). Literature searching for social science systematic reviews: consideration of a range of search techniques. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 27(2), 114-122. doi:https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00863.x
- Pasadeos, Y., & Renfro, B. (1992). A Bibliometric Analysis of Public Relations Research. *Journal of Public Relations Research*, 4(3), 167-187. doi:10.1207/s1532754xjpr0403\_03
- Patton, M. J. (2007). AKP reform fatigue in Turkey: What has happened to the EU process? *MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS*, 12(3), 339-358. doi:10.1080/13629390701622382

- Sieberer, U. (2013). Elections in Western European parliaments. *European Journal of Political Research*, 52(4), 512-535. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12007>
- Strömbäck, J., Grandien, C., & Falasca, K. (2012). Do Campaign Strategies and Tactics Matter? Exploring Party Elite Perceptions of What Matters When Explaining Election Outcomes. *Journal of Public Affairs*. doi:10.1002/pa.1441
- Tepe, S. (2005). Turkey's AKP: A model ``muslim-democratic party? *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*, 16(3), 69-82. doi:10.1353/jod.2005.0053
- Tolstrup, J. (2015). Black knights and elections in authoritarian regimes: Why and how Russia supports authoritarian incumbents in post-Soviet states. *European Journal of Political Research*, 54(4), 673-690. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12079>
- Wang, C.-H. (2022). The Effect of Political Donation on Election Outcomes: Evidence From Taiwan Legislative Elections. *SAGE Open*. doi:10.1177/21582440221084991