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THE ACADEMIC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OF THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY: A BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH TO THE 2025 THESIS LITERATURE IN TÜRKİYE

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Abstract[1]

The family, as a core institution of social structure, plays a crucial role in the social, cultural, and psychological development of individuals. This study investigates the structural and thematic characteristics of family-related academic production in Turkey following the declaration of 2025 as the "Year of the Family" by presidential decree. A total of 123 open-access theses containing the term "family" in their titles, published in the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education by May 31, 2025, were analyzed through bibliometric methods. The analysis revealed that 98% of the theses were written in Turkish, 69.9% were authored by women, and quantitative methods (69.1%) were predominantly used. Disciplines such as Family Medicine, Business Administration, Islamic Studies, Social Work, and Psychology were among those addressing family issues. Keyword analysis highlighted frequent use of "parent," "child," "woman," "marriage," and "therapy." Overall, the findings demonstrate that family-focused academic studies are produced within an interdisciplinary framework and are strongly connected with themes of gender, health, education, and social welfare. In this context, the proposed Family Institute, to be established in collaboration between the Council of Higher Education and the Ministry of Family and Social Services, is expected to facilitate the integration of academic knowledge and social policy.

Keywords: *Family Studies, Bibliometric Analysis, Academic Public Sphere, 2025 Year of the Family.*

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AİLE KAVRAMININ AKADEMİK KAMUSAL İLETİŞİMİ: TÜRKİYE'DE 2025 YILI TEZ LİTERATÜRÜ ÜZERİNDEN BİBLİOMETRİK BİR YAKLAŞIM

Öz

Aile toplumsal yapının temel kurumlarından biri olarak bireylerin sosyal, kültürel ve psikolojik gelişiminde belirleyici rol oynamaktadır. Bu çalışma, 2025'in Cumhurbaşkanlığı kararıyla "Aile Yılı" ilan edilmesinin ardından Türkiye'de aile temalı akademik üretimin yapısal ve tematik özelliklerini incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Yükseköğretim Kurulu Ulusal Tez Merkezi'nde 31 Mayıs 2025'e kadar yayımlanan ve başlığında "aile" yer alan 123 açık erişimli tez bibliyometrik yöntemle değerlendirilmiştir. Bulgular, tezlerin %98'inin Türkçe yazıldığını, kadın yazar oranının %69,9 olduğunu ve nicel yöntemlerin (%69,1) baskın kullanıldığını göstermektedir. Aile Hekimliği, İşletme, Temel İslam Bilimleri, Sosyal Hizmet ve Psikoloji gibi disiplinlerin aile konusunu farklı yönleriyle ele aldığı görülmektedir. Anahtar kelime analizi "ebeveyn", "çocuk", "kadın", "evlilik" ve "terapi" kavramlarının sıklıkla kullanıldığını ortaya koymuştur. Sonuçlar, aile odaklı akademik üretimin disiplinler arası bir çerçevede konumlandığını ve toplumsal cinsiyet, sağlık, eğitim ile sosyal refah alanlarıyla güçlü bağlar kurduğunu göstermektedir. Bu bağlamda, YÖK ile Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı iş birliğinde planlanan Aile Enstitüsü'nün, akademik bilgi ile sosyal politikanın entegrasyonunu güçlendireceği öngörülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Aile Çalışmaları, Bibliyometrik Analiz, Akademik Kamusal Alan, 2025 Aile Yılı.*

INTRODUCTION

The family institution, due to both its historical continuity and its openness to social transformations, constitutes one of the most dynamic and multidimensional fields of inquiry in the social sciences (Ağdemir, 1991). In this respect, it has been continuously redefined within shifting cultural, economic, and political contexts and has maintained a central position in academic research agendas. Sociological theories conceptualize the family as a primary agent of socialization, a carrier of cultural values, and a cornerstone of social stability (Biçer Olgun, 2021). Transformations in family structure impact not only interpersonal relationships but also the continuity and evolution of broader social systems. From the perspective of cultural studies, the family is defined as a space in which collective identity, traditions, and social norms are produced and reproduced (Kağıtçıbaşı, 2019). The family functions not only as a source of individual belonging but also as a repository of social memory and a conduit for cultural continuity. From a communication sciences standpoint, the family represents the initial sphere of meaning-making and serves as a unique microcosm where individuals' patterns of social interaction are formed (Akın, 2019). This multidisciplinary approach highlights that the family is not a static institution but rather a continually reconstructed social practice. In

Turkey, intellectual discourse on the family is shaped not only by everyday practices and political narratives but also through academic knowledge production. The declaration of 2025 as the "Year of the Family" by presidential decree has further increased scholarly interest in family-related research (Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2025). This declaration has given rise to new academic debates and research motivations. In this context, universities—through master's and doctoral theses—have emerged as institutional centers of knowledge production, offering both critical observations on the societal impacts of family policies and interdisciplinary analyses of evolving family structures.

In recent years, Turkey has experienced significant demographic, cultural, and technological transformations in its family structure (Macit, 2020). These developments have compelled researchers to pose new questions about the family, develop novel conceptual frameworks, and adopt diverse methodological approaches. The evolving dynamics of the family—from nuclear to extended forms and from traditional to pluralistic structures—are being reconsidered in light of complex themes such as shifting parental roles, increased female labor force participation, digitalized communication patterns, and gender-based vulnerabilities (Gökler & Atamtürk, 2021). These themes go beyond serving merely as research topics in academic theses; they also offer theoretical and practical insights into the broader social structure of Turkish society. Examining the structural and thematic features of academic output provides an important reference point for understanding the scientific orientations, methodological preferences, and institutional diversity within a country's research landscape. This study aims to systematically analyze postgraduate theses containing the keyword "family" with respect to various bibliographic variables. Through this examination, the study seeks to identify the disciplinary concentrations, temporal trends, and methodological orientations characterizing academic work on the family in Turkey.

The Concept Of Family: Sociological, Cultural, And Communicative Contexts

The family, as both one of the oldest and most frequently transformed institutions of social structure, necessitates a multidimensional analysis within historical, cultural, and communicative contexts (Güler & Ulutak, 1993). This multilayered structure represents not merely a biological union or economic function, but also a domain in which individuals' socialization processes are shaped and their value systems are internalized (Hallaç & Öz, 2014). Owing to its central role in social life, the family has long been a core subject of sociological inquiry. While functionalist approaches emphasize the stabilizing roles of the family within society, critical and feminist theories aim to uncover power relations, gender roles, and institutionalized inequalities within the family structure (Turğut, 2017). These theoretical perspectives reveal that the family is not a static entity but a historical construct shaped by the economic, political, and cultural dynamics of each era. From a sociological standpoint, the family constitutes the initial social environment to

which an individual is exposed from birth. This environment defines role expectations, behavioral patterns, and modes of conformity to social norms (Özyurt, 2013). Within the family setting, individuals learn gender roles, establish relationships with authority, and undergo linguistic and emotional development. Thus, the family functions not only as a framework for psychosocial development at the individual level but also as a mechanism that ensures the continuity of social structure at the macro level (Kır, 2011). However, this structure is not homogeneous; various factors such as class position, ethnicity, religious beliefs, cultural values, and geographic location contribute to the diversification and differentiation of family forms (Çobanoğlu, 2020). These variations necessitate that family structures be analyzed within their specific historical and cultural contexts.

From a cultural perspective, the family serves as a carrier of a society's collective values, behavioral norms, and belief systems embedded in its social memory (Aluş, 2015). Each culture defines, regulates, and reproduces the family according to its own historical conditions and everyday practices. In traditional societies, the family occupies a central position in the construction of collective identity and social solidarity. In modern societies, however, increasing individualization, the pursuit of personal freedom, and the diversification of lifestyles have led to significant transformations in family structures (Şahin, 2019). Throughout this process of change, the nuclear family model has gained widespread prevalence. In contemporary societies shaped by globalization and blurred cultural boundaries, the family has become a cultural domain where local values and universal norms intersect (Değirmenci & Demirli, 2019; Yıldırım, 2021). Within this framework, the family cannot be defined solely by internal relationships; rather, it should be understood as a social formation continuously reshaped by the influence of institutions such as media, law, religion, and the economy.

From a communicative perspective, the family represents the first social system in which an individual's world of meaning is constructed and communication skills are formed (Görgün Baran, 2004). Intra-family communication plays a critical role in shaping personality development, self-esteem, and patterns of interaction in social relationships. These communicative structures are directly shaped by cultural codes and norms (Erol, 2022). The rapid transformation of communication technologies has profoundly affected communication practices within the family. In particular, the integration of digital media tools into family life has led to the replacement of traditional face-to-face interactions with practices such as digital messaging, online engagement, and multi-screen usage (Okkay & Bal, 2021). This transformation carries a dual potential—both strengthening and weakening familial bonds. Moreover, digital communication reshapes parenting practices by introducing new concerns and concepts such as digital privacy, media literacy, and online supervision (Gülnar & Öztat, 2020; Nabi & Wolfers, 2022). From past to present, family communication has undergone significant changes under the influence of evolving technological developments.

When the sociological, cultural, and communicative dimensions of the family are considered together, it becomes evident that the institution possesses a complex and multidimensional structure at both individual and societal levels (Elitaş & Keskin, 2016). The family can be understood as a microcosm that reflects the values, norms, and communication practices of the society in which it exists. In this context, understanding the family involves not only analyzing historical patterns but also anticipating future social trends (Kars & Peker, 2025; Sadıkoğlu, 2023). Therefore, monitoring changes in family structures offers valuable insights into broader processes of social transformation and serves as an important reference point for policymakers in the development of effective social policies.

The Relationship Between Public Communication and Academic Discourse

Public communication is a form of interaction in which individuals exchange ideas about societal issues, cultivate critical thinking, and shape collective orientation through the production of shared understanding (van Dijk, 1997). Within this context, academic discourse constitutes a distinct layer that problematizes the role of knowledge production in public communication. Academic output is not limited to abstract knowledge circulating within the confines of universities; it also represents a form of public transmission with the potential to transform the intellectual foundations of society (Dursun & Yıldız, 2022; Guslyakova, 2020). Accordingly, the role of academic discourse in public communication is of critical importance for the democratization of knowledge access, the strengthening of critical public opinion, and the cultivation of a participatory civic culture. From the perspective of Habermas's theory of the public sphere, the formation of rational and deliberative communicative environments is directly linked to the transparency and inclusivity of the institutions that produce and disseminate knowledge (Habermas, 2004). In this framework, academic discourse emerges as the institutionalized form of rational thought.

In today's knowledge society, the dissemination of academic knowledge to broader segments of the public necessitates a redefinition of the boundaries of the academic sphere (Persohn et al., 2024). Particularly with the rise of digitalization, the production, distribution, and critique of knowledge are no longer confined to academic journals and conferences. Academic content now reaches wider audiences through social media, open-access platforms, scientific podcasts, and online course materials (Sağır & Memiş Sağır, 2019). This transformation not only compels a repositioning of academic discourse within public communication but also redefines the public intellectual identity of scholars. Although academic discourse often appears inaccessible due to its technical language and disciplinary context, it plays a crucial role in the processes of social meaning-making (İşeri & Aydın, 2024) and is indispensable for fostering high-quality public communication. Academic analyses of contemporary societal issues hold value not only within expert domains but also by entering the public sphere, contributing to the development of critical debate and

enabling scientific knowledge to engage with everyday life (Şimşek & Erol, 2023). In this respect, the relationship between academic discourse and public communication should not be viewed as a one-way transmission of information, but rather as a mutual exchange of knowledge. Narrowing the distance between academia and society is vital not only for public benefit but also for enhancing the social legitimacy of academic production (Furtun & Börekçi, 2023; Kubilay, 2021). The proliferation and acceleration of public communication channels have also prompted transformations in both the content and form of academic discourse.

In today's era of speed and attention economy, academic knowledge frequently circulates in simplified, sloganized, or popularized forms (Tutal & Ertem, 2020). This phenomenon carries both opportunities and risks. While broader dissemination of academic content enhances access to knowledge, materials that are stripped of context or presented incompletely may lead to superficial consumption of information (Hyland, 1994). Therefore, maintaining the originality, critical depth, and ethical responsibility of academic discourse within public communication has become a shared obligation for both scholars and media platforms. The relationship between public communication and academic discourse should be addressed not only at the content level but also in terms of the institutional nature and societal functions of these domains (Sain & Berber, 2023; Öztürk, 2015). Adopting this mission and increasing the visibility and impact of scholars on social issues is essential for the sustainability of social relations. Especially in the field of social sciences, academic studies should go beyond theoretical frameworks and provide data-driven, real-life insights by engaging directly with the field. This would enable academic production to be more effectively integrated into public communication (Fairclough, 2013). Thus, the relationship between public communication and academic discourse constitutes one of the core dynamics shaping the knowledge regimes of modern societies. The nature of this relationship warrants continuous reconsideration—not only for the functionality of democratic public spheres but also for the capacity of scientific production to generate social benefit (Hasdemir, 2014). As the dialogue between academic discourse and public communication intensifies, society's capacity for critical thinking and its ability to bridge across diverse fields of knowledge are also enhanced.

The 2025 Year of the Family

The family institution has historically been regarded as a fundamental component of social structure, playing a decisive role in areas ranging from individual psychosocial development to the construction of social solidarity (Gökçe, 1976). In recent years, demographic shifts in Turkey—such as declining fertility rates, rising average age at marriage, and the growing number of single-parent households—have necessitated a renewed assessment of family structures (TÜİK, 2024). Within this context, the declaration of 2025 as the "Year of the Family" by presidential decree reflects the state's intent to develop a comprehensive policy framework for supporting families (Official Gazette, 2024).

Throughout the Year of the Family, the Ministry of Family and Social Services coordinated a wide range of nationwide activities through multi-stakeholder collaborations. These included workshops aimed at strengthening intra-family communication, parental education programs, and psychosocial support services, implemented across 550 Family Support Centers (ADEM) in 76 provinces and 90 Social Solidarity Centers (SODAM) in 27 provinces (Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı, 2025). In addition, economic incentives favoring families were introduced in the areas of transportation, culture, and sports—for example, train and airline ticket discounts ranging from 15% to 40%, and increased financial aid for women who have given birth and for families with multiple children (TRT News, 2025). At a strategic level, a cooperation protocol signed between the Council of Higher Education and the Ministry of Family and Social Services led to the establishment of a Family Institute and the initiation of support mechanisms for academic research in this field (Euronews Türkçe, 2025). The legal foundation for these developments lies in Article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye, which states: "The family is the foundation of Turkish society, and the state shall take the necessary measures to protect and strengthen the family" (Constitution, 1982). Furthermore, national policy documents such as the 12th Development Plan (2024–2028) and the "Family Protection and Strengthening Vision Document and Action Plan" provide a structural framework for the implementation of the Year of the Family (Cumhurbaşkanlığı Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı, 2023). Nevertheless, it is essential that these policies go beyond short-term aid and awareness campaigns and be supported by long-term institutional structures that prioritize demographic sustainability, intergenerational solidarity, and cultural transmission (Kongar, 1970). It is also clear that the long-term impact of initiatives launched under the Year of the Family should be measured not only through quantitative indicators but also via qualitative parameters such as social cohesion, a sense of belonging, and quality of life. At this point, the active integration of academia and policymakers into shared production processes becomes increasingly vital.

METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive research conducted using bibliometric analysis to examine the structural and thematic characteristics of postgraduate theses related to the concept of family in Turkey. Bibliometric analysis is a method that enables the systematic examination of the quantitative and content-related features of academic publications within a specific field. The aim of this study is to identify academic trends in family research by evaluating theses that include the keyword "family" in terms of various bibliographic variables. The population of the research consists of theses published in the Council of Higher Education's (YÖK) National Thesis Center database by May 31, 2025, and containing the word "family" in their titles. Out of 126 identified theses, 3 were excluded due to restricted access, and a total of 123

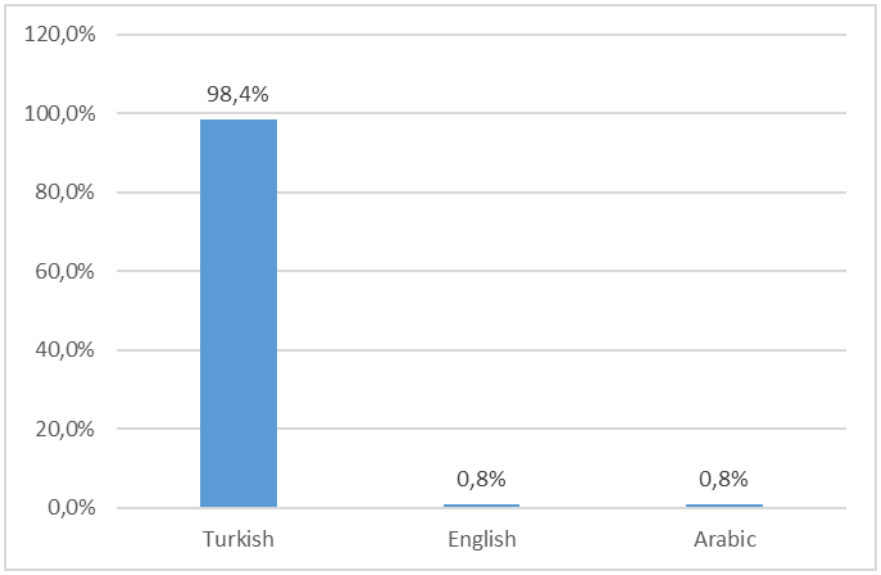
open-access theses were included in the analysis. Data were collected from the YÖK National Thesis Center's digital archive between June 1–2, 2025. Using the advanced search feature, the keyword "family" was entered in the title field, and all retrieved theses were reviewed for inclusion. Only theses with full-text open access were selected for the study. The sampled theses were analyzed according to variables such as thesis language, university of submission, department, author's gender, advisor's academic title, thesis type, data collection technique, research method, and keywords. In addition, the specified keywords were examined, and a word cloud was generated with the assistance of ChatGPT 4.0 to visualize thematic density. The obtained data were tabulated using Microsoft Excel and evaluated with descriptive statistics including frequency (f) and percentage (%) values. Findings were presented through visualized tables and graphs.

Since this study does not involve any human or animal experiments, approval from an ethics committee was not required. All data analyzed in the research were obtained from publicly available and accessible sources (the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education, YÖK). Therefore, no additional legal or special permissions were necessary.

FINDINGS

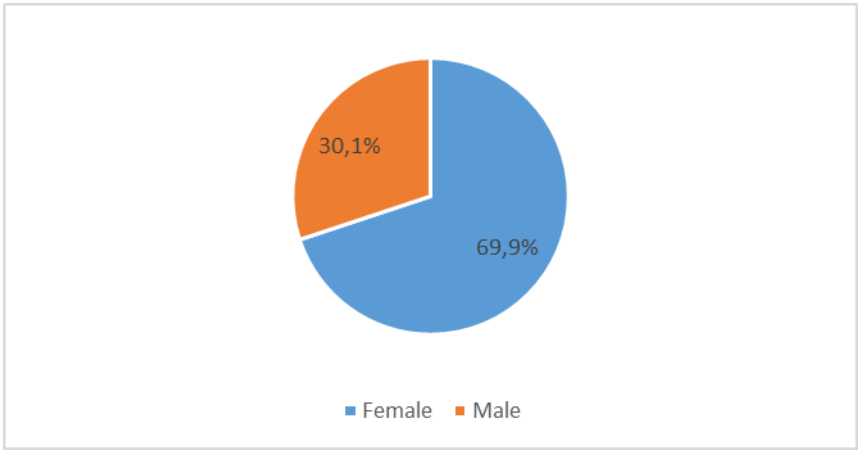
A total of 126 postgraduate theses containing the word "family" in their titles and published between January and May 2025 were identified in the Council of Higher Education's National Thesis Center database. Of these, 123 open-access theses were included in the study and analyzed according to predetermined categories. The findings were presented through various tables and visual graphics.

Figure 1. Distribution of Published Theses by Language of Publication



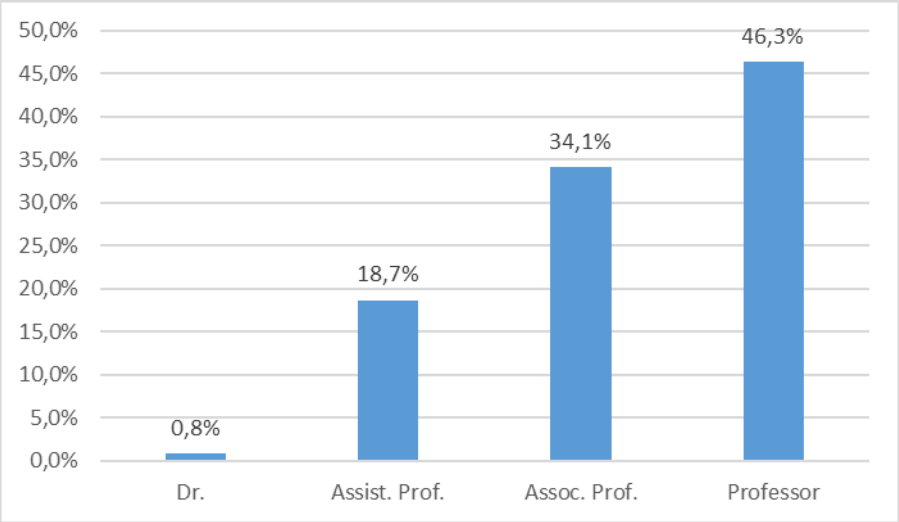
When the analyzed theses are categorized by language of publication, it is observed that 121 of them (98.4%) are written in Turkish, while both English and Arabic theses appear only once, each representing 0.8% of the total.

Figure 2. Distribution of Published Theses by Author's Gender



When the analyzed theses are categorized by the author's gender, it is observed that female authors constitute 86 theses (69.9%), while male authors account for 37 theses (30.1%).

Figure 3. Distribution of Published Theses by Advisor's Academic Title



When the analyzed theses are categorized by the academic title of the advisor, it is observed that 57 theses (46.3%) were supervised by full professors (Professors), 42 (34.1%) by associate professors, 23 (18.7%) by assistant professors, and 1 thesis (0.8%) by an advisor holding a PhD without professorial rank.

Table 1. Distribution of Published Theses by University

University	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**	**University**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Afyon Kocatepe University	1	0,8 %	Beykent University	1	0,8 %
Afyonkarahisar Sağlık Bilimleri University	1	0,8 %	Istanbul Gedik University	1	0,8 %
Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	1	0,8 %	Nişantaşı University	3	2,4 %
Anadolu University	1	0,8 %	Sabahattin Zaim University	2	1,6 %
Akdeniz University	2	1,6 %	Istanbul Ticaret University	4	3,3 %
Aksaray University	3	2,4 %	Istanbul University	5	4,1 %
Atatürk University	1	0,8 %	Izmir Katip Çelebi University	4	3,3 %

Ardahan University	1	0,8 %	Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University	2	1,6 %
Ankara University	6	4,9 %	Karabük University	3	2,4 %
Bahçeşehir University	1	0,8 %	Kırşehir Ahi Evran University	1	0,8 %
Balıkesir University	1	0,8 %	Kocaeli University	1	0,8 %
Bezmialem Foundation University	2	1,6 %	KTO Karatay University	1	0,8 %
Bayburt University	1	0,8 %	Marmara University	3	2,4 %
Bursa Uludağ University	1	0,8 %	Necmettin Erbakan University	2	1,6 %
Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University	2	1,6 %	Ondokuz Mayıs University	1	0,8 %
Çukurova University	3	2,4 %	Ordu University	1	0,8 %
Erciyes University	1	0,8 %	Pamukkale University	2	1,6 %
Fırat University	1	0,8 %	Sağlık Bilimleri University	11	8,9 %
Gazi University	2	1,6 %	Sinop University	1	0,8 %
Gaziantep University	2	1,6 %	Süleyman Demirel University	1	0,8 %
Gümüşhane University	1	0,8 %	Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University	1	0,8 %
Hacettepe University	5	4,1 %	Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University	2	1,6 %
Harran University	2	1,6 %	Trakya University	3	2,4 %
Hasan Kalyoncu University	1	0,8 %	Ufuk University	1	0,8 %
Hitit University	1	0,8 %	Uşak University	2	1,6 %

İzmir Tınaztepe University	1	0,8 %	Üsküdar University	7	5,7 %
İnönü University	1	0,8 %	Van Yüzüncü Yıl University	1	0,8 %
Istanbul Arel University	1	0,8 %	Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University	1	0,8 %
Istanbul Atlas University	1	0,8 %	Yalova University	1	0,8 %
Istanbul Medipol University	1	0,8 %	Yıldız Teknik University	1	0,8 %
Istanbul Aydın University	3	2,4 %	Yozgat Bozok University	1	0,8 %

When the analyzed theses are categorized according to the universities where they were submitted, the following distribution is observed: One thesis (0.8%) was published at each of the following universities: Afyon Kocatepe University, Afyonkarahisar Sağlık Bilimleri University, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Anadolu University, Atatürk University, Ardahan University, Bahçeşehir University, Balıkesir University, Bayburt University, Bursa Uludağ University, Erciyes University, Fırat University, Gümüşhane University, Hasan Kalyoncu University, Hitit University, İzmir Tınaztepe University, İnönü University, Istanbul Arel University, Istanbul Atlas University, Istanbul Medipol University, Beykent University, Istanbul Gedik University, Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Kocaeli University, KTO Karatay University, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Ordu University, Sinop University, Süleyman Demirel University, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, Ufuk University, Van Yüzüncü Yıl University, Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University, Yalova University, Yıldız Teknik University, and Yozgat Bozok University. Two theses (1.6%) were published at each of the following institutions: Akdeniz University, Bezmialem Vakıf University, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Gazi University, Gaziantep University, Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, Necmettin Erbakan University, Pamukkale University, Harran University, Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University, and Uşak University. Three theses (2.4%) were submitted at each of the following universities: Aksaray University, Çukurova University, Istanbul Aydın University, Nişantaşı University, Karabük University, Marmara University, and Trakya University. Four theses (3.3%) were submitted at both Istanbul Ticaret University and Izmir Katip Çelebi University. Five theses (4.1%) each were submitted at Istanbul University and Hacettepe University. Six theses (4.9%) were submitted at Ankara University. Seven theses (5.7%) were submitted at Üsküdar University. The highest number of theses—eleven (8.9%)—were submitted at the Sağlık Bilimleri University.

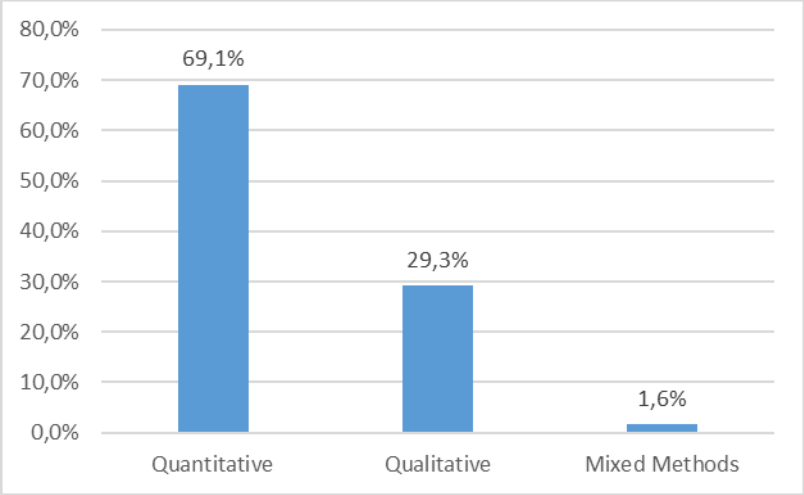
Table 2. Distribution of Published Theses by Academic Department

Academic Department	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Department of Family Counseling	5	4,1%
Department of Family Counseling and Education	2	1,6%
Department of Family Economics and Nutrition	1	0,8%
Department of Family Medicine	36	29,3%
Department of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations	1	0,8%
Department of Speech and Language Therapy	1	0,8%
Department of Interdisciplinary Family Counseling	1	0,8%
Department of Educational Sciences	5	4,1%
Department of Ergotherapy	1	0,8%
Department of Pharmacognosy	1	0,8%
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies	1	0,8%
Department of Public Health	1	0,8%
Department of Public Relations and Publicity	1	0,8%
Department of Nursing	9	7,3%
Department of Business Administration	12	9,8%
Department of Women and Family Studies	1	0,8%
Department of Organizational Behavior	1	0,8%
Department of Private Law	3	2,4%
Department of Psychology	8	6,5%
Department of Psychiatry	2	1,6%
Department of Mental Health and Diseases	1	0,8%
Department of Psychiatric Nursing	1	0,8%
Department of Health Management	1	0,8%
Department of Political Science and Public Administration	1	0,8%

Department of Social Work	6	4,9%
Department of Social Studies Education	1	0,8%
Department of Sociology	2	1,6%
Department of Basic Education	2	1,6%
Department of Agricultural Economics	1	0,8%
Department of Basic Islamic Sciences	12	9,8%
Department of Medical Education and Informatics	1	0,8%
Department of Management and Strategy	1	0,8%
Total	123	100,0%

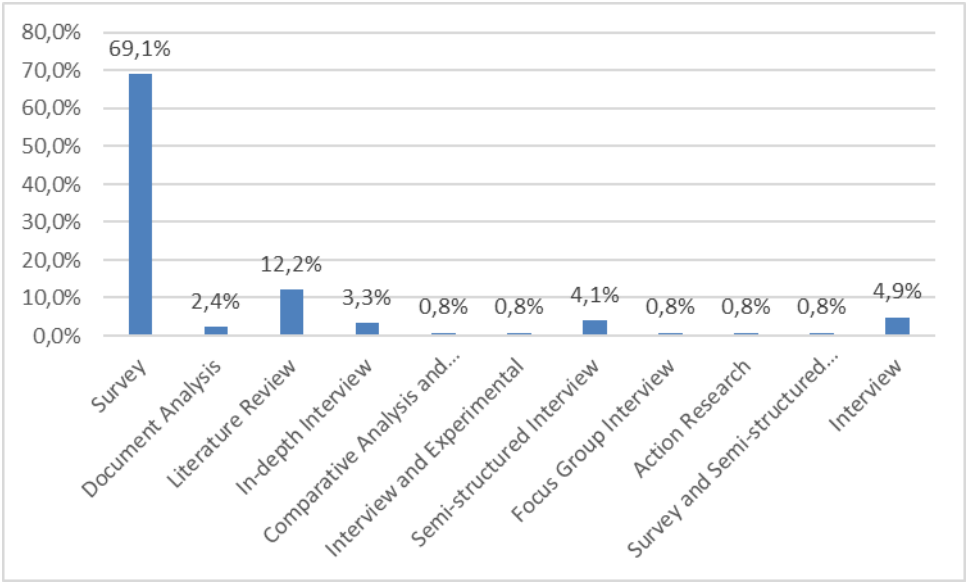
When analyzed by the "academic department" category, the theses are distributed as follows Each with a frequency of 1 and a rate of 0.8%, the following departments are represented: Department of Medical Education and Informatics, Department of Management and Strategy, Department of Agricultural Economics, Department of Social Studies Education, Department of Mental Health and Diseases, Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Department of Health Management, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Department of Women and Family Studies, Department of Organizational Behavior, Department of Ergotherapy, Department of Pharmacognosy, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Relations and Publicity, Department of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations, Department of Speech and Language Therapy, Department of Interdisciplinary Family Counseling, and Department of Family Economics and Nutrition. With a frequency of 2 and a rate of 1.6%, the following departments are included: Department of Sociology, Department of Basic Education, Department of Psychiatry, and Department of Family Counseling and Education. The Department of Private Law is represented with 3 theses (2.4%), Departments of Educational Sciences and Family Counseling with 5 theses each (4.1%), Department of Social Work with 6 theses (4.9%), Department of Psychology with 8 theses (6.5%), and Department of Nursing with 9 theses (7.3%). The Department of Basic Islamic Sciences and the Department of Business Administration each have 12 theses (9.8%), while the Department of Family Medicine stands out with the highest number—36 theses—corresponding to 29.3% of the total.

Figure 4. Distribution of Published Theses by Research Method



When analyzed by the "research method" category, the theses show the following distribution: quantitative methods were used in 85 theses, accounting for 69.1% of the total. Qualitative methods were employed in 36 theses (29.3%), while mixed methods were used in only 2 theses, representing 1.6% of the total.

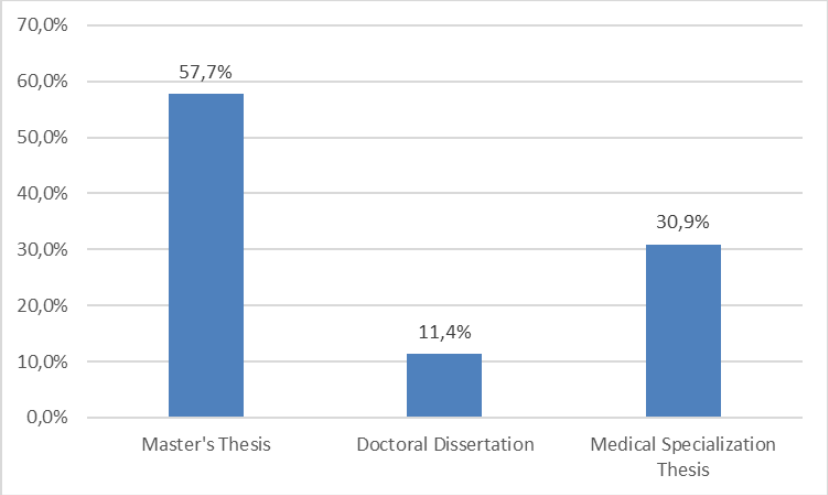
Figure 5. Distribution of Published Theses by Data Collection Technique



When analyzed by the "data collection technique" category, the theses are distributed as follows: Survey was the most commonly used technique, employed in

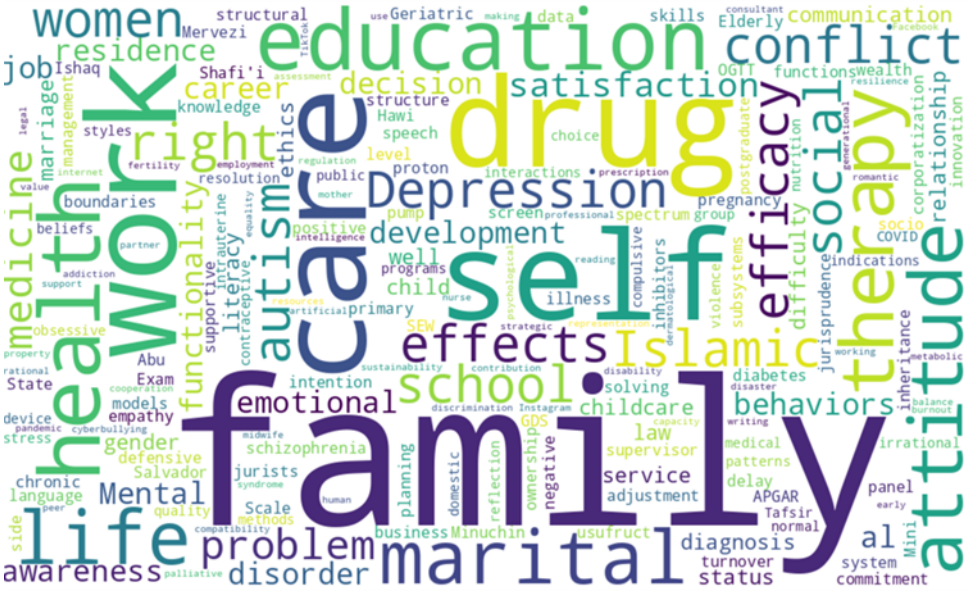
85 theses (69.1%). Literature review was used in 15 theses (12.2%), followed by document analysis in 3 theses (2.4%), and comparative analysis and interpretation in 4 theses (3.3%). Other techniques appeared less frequently: in-depth interview in 6 theses (4.9%), focus group interview in 5 theses (4.1%), interview and experimental in 1 thesis (0.8%), semi-structured interview in 1 thesis (0.8%), action research in 1 thesis (0.8%), survey and semi-structured interview in 1 thesis (0.8%), and interview in 1 thesis (0.8%).

Figure 6. Distribution of Published Theses by Type of Thesis



When analyzed by the "type of thesis" category, Master's theses accounted for the majority with 71 instances (57.7%), followed by Medical specialization theses with 38 instances (30.9%), and Doctoral dissertations with 14 instances (11.4%).

Figure 7. Word Cloud of Keywords



The word cloud generated from the English translations of key terms in Turkish graduate theses related to "family" provides a valuable insight into the thematic landscape of academic research in this domain. The most frequently appearing concepts include family, health, primary care, family medicine, communication, support, and mental health, indicating a strong interdisciplinary focus. Notably, the prominence of terms such as depression, anxiety, autism spectrum disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder reflects an increasing academic interest in the psychological and psychiatric dimensions of family life. This trend is further supported by the inclusion of terms like family functioning, family cohesion, and emotional regulation, suggesting that contemporary studies place considerable emphasis on intra-family dynamics and emotional well-being. The appearance of public health, preventive medicine, nutrition, and chronic disease management underscores the integration of medical and health-related topics, particularly within the context of family medicine and primary healthcare services. Similarly, concepts like social support, care burden, and family-centered care illustrate the growing attention to caregiving practices and support systems, especially in relation to aging populations and chronic illness. Furthermore, keywords such as domestic violence, digital transformation, parental attitudes, and communication styles point to the influence of societal change, gender studies, and digital media on family structures and interactions. Educational aspects also surface through terms like school-family cooperation, value education, and child development, highlighting the pedagogical role of the family. Overall, this word

cloud illustrates the richness and complexity of family studies in Turkish academia, characterized by a convergence of disciplines such as psychology, medicine, social work, law, theology, and communication sciences. The broad distribution of themes confirms that the family remains a central and evolving subject of inquiry, reflecting societal transformations and interdisciplinary research interests.

DISCUSSION

The bibliometric analysis conducted within the scope of this study has revealed the thematic density, methodological preferences, and institutional-demographic distribution of academic production on the theme of "family" in Turkey within the framework of the 2025 Year of the Family. The findings show that theses on family-related topics are produced within a multidisciplinary academic framework and are particularly concentrated in fields such as health sciences, social work, psychology, law, and education. This indicates that the concept of family is addressed not only at the micro and interpersonal levels but also as a structural and institutional phenomenon.

That 98.4% of the theses were written in Turkish reveals a strong connection between family studies and local knowledge production in Turkey. It also reflects the emphasis on addressing national socio-cultural contexts in academic work. Additionally, the fact that 69.9% of the thesis authors were women presents a meaningful pattern in terms of gender dynamics within academic production. This high representation of female researchers can be interpreted as a reflection of their interest and contribution to issues such as family, parenting, social roles, and caregiving, while also signaling the visibility of women in academic knowledge creation. The prevalence of thesis advisors with the titles "Professor" (46.3%) and "Associate Professor" (34.1%) demonstrates that many of these studies were conducted under experienced academic supervision, which is crucial for sustaining academic quality. The university-based distribution of the theses further indicates that academic production on family issues occurs across various geographical regions in Turkey. This suggests that the concept of family is shaped by regional diversity and local dynamics, and that this diversity is reflected in academic discourse. Institutions such as the University of Health Sciences and Üsküdar University stand out for their significant contribution to thesis production in this field. In terms of departments, the findings reveal that disciplines such as Family Medicine (29.3%), Business Administration, and Basic Islamic Sciences (9.8% each) are prominently represented. This suggests that family is addressed from not only psychosocial perspectives but also through lenses such as health, religion, law, and business. The presence of theses from departments of Basic Islamic Sciences indicates that family in Turkey is explored not only through modern social science approaches but also through traditional and cultural-religious frameworks. Regarding methodology, the data show that most theses were conducted using quantitative approaches (69.1%), while qualitative methods accounted for 29.3%.

This demonstrates a strong emphasis on measurable data in family research, though the presence of qualitative studies also reflects an academic interest in deeper, interpretative analysis. However, the limited use of mixed methods (1.6%) highlights a need for greater methodological diversity in future family research.

The word cloud analysis of keywords reveals that the most frequently mentioned themes include "family medicine," "social work," "parenting," "marriage," "women," "children," "therapy," and "education." These results show that thesis studies largely focus on micro-level structures such as health promotion, intra-family relations, and parental roles. At the same time, the inclusion of macro-level issues such as "work-family conflict," "institutionalization," "women's employment," "technology use," and "cyberbullying" suggests that the concept of family is closely interwoven with current social transformations.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the scope, methodology, and thematic orientation of academic research on family in Turkey. It also reveals that the 2025 Year of the Family has had a significant impact not only in terms of public policy but also within the academic domain. Encouraging greater methodological diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration will be crucial for enhancing the depth and influence of future family-related studies.

CONCLUSION

This study has systematically revealed the quantitative and qualitative landscape of academic production on the theme of family in Turkey in the context of the declaration of 2025 as the “Year of the Family.” The bibliometric analysis conducted shows that academic interest in the subject of family spans multiple disciplines, including health sciences, social work, psychology, law, theology, and education. Within this multidisciplinary landscape, dominant themes include parenthood, child development, marriage, family health, gender roles, and caregiving practices.

The findings also demonstrate a significant gendered pattern in academic authorship, with women accounting for the majority of thesis writers (69.9%). This highlights the central role of gender in shaping the research agenda on family-related issues. Furthermore, the prevalence of theses supervised by senior academics (professors and associate professors) underscores the strong academic mentorship structure supporting research in this domain. From a methodological standpoint, the dominance of quantitative research approaches (69.1%) suggests a strong emphasis on measurability and statistical generalization in family studies. However, the limited use of mixed methods and qualitative designs indicates an underutilization of deeper, interpretive, and culturally contextual approaches—despite the inherently complex and value-laden nature of the family as a social institution. Enhancing

methodological diversity by encouraging more qualitative and participatory research would offer richer insights into family dynamics.

The keyword cloud analysis revealed that concepts such as "family medicine," "parenting," "child," "woman," "marriage," and "therapy" were among the most frequently mentioned. This suggests that academic studies predominantly focus on micro-level dynamics such as intra-family relationships, caregiving labor, and maternal-child health. Nonetheless, the inclusion of macro-level themes such as "work-family conflict," "women's employment," "digitalization," and "cyberbullying" demonstrates an awareness of broader societal transformations impacting the institution of the family. Overall, family-focused academic studies in Turkey serve not only as contributions to scholarly knowledge but also as crucial data sources for shaping public policy and social service models. The proposed establishment of a National Family Institute—under the collaboration of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the Ministry of Family and Social Services—holds the potential to institutionalize knowledge in this field and support data-driven policymaking, academic consultancy, and curriculum development.

In conclusion, the family remains a strategic pillar of Turkey's social cohesion, cultural continuity, and demographic sustainability. Promoting academic research on family, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, and fostering the participation of emerging scholars are essential not only for scientific progress but also for the advancement of inclusive and culturally responsive social policies.

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