'ELECTION' A Bibliometric Review From 2018—2024 in South East Asia

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Abstract

The election is an important part of democracy, besides the existence of political parties, and boards of election. A bibliometric analysis of 'election' was conducted to observe the mapping of this topic in the 2018 to 2024 period. The review collected articles from Scopus.com on certain Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. There are 100 articles from 68 sources, with 248 authors. Using the range of bibliometric tools, we find that Indonesia is the most productive country in this topic (98), the most collaborative (10), and also has the most citations (68). This review also presents some suggestions for advanced research on this topic that were obtained from the co-occurrence keyword used by the authors.

Keywords: citation; collaborative; democracy; election; political

Introduction

The election is the most tangible tool for a democratic system (Budiarjo, 2007), in which people have full authority to choose their leader and the representative for the parliament. Democracy and election are two sides of a coin. A political position is achieved by voting as the tool of democracy, as citizen's representation in political institutions (Prasetio et al., 2022). In most democratic countries, the election is considered a symbol and indicator of democracy, that mirrors citizen's participation (Budiarjo, 2007). The easiest way to measure participation is voter turnout percentage among the total population of voters (Budiarjo, 2007). A general election facilitates the realization of welfare and justice for the populace. Simultaneously, a general election would shape the future and direction of a nation's policies (Herawati et al., 2023). In truth, national elections are beneficial for people's contentment with democracy. However, it suggests that the impact of elections on democratic satisfaction is lasting and varies based on the economic context in which they occur; this is known as the election economy. When elections are conducted during periods of economic growth, they enhance subsequent satisfaction with democracy throughout most of the following electoral terms, irrespective of the election outcomes and the economic performance afterward. Conversely, when elections happen during economic recessions, they diminish

democratic satisfaction until the subsequent election, again, regardless of any developments that follow the election. An analysis covering 29 European democracies from 1973 to 2019 corroborates these claims and indicates that the varying impacts of national elections persist for most of the electoral term. These results remain consistent across a range of model specifications, including considerations for various pre-election and post-election events (Krishnarajan, 2022)

Each country has its electoral system, however, the electoral system can be divided into two major forms, namely: the district system and the proportional system (open and closed proportional)(Budiarjo, 2007). With their respective weaknesses and advantages. The modernization of the public administration and the electoral reforms had intentioned and unplanned effects due to implementation conditions and actors. In the first place, there is an evident the divorce between electoral democracy and its inability to generate an effective public administration regarding effectiveness and continuity (Torres Rodríguez & Ahuactzin Martínez, 2019). A strong connection exists between effective governance and the electoral system, as it has evolved into an essential function in numerous organizations, resulting in increased productivity within that area (Mire, n.d.). A more comprehensive analysis, from which this article is based, reveals that there is a requirement to amend the electoral laws further to promote political competition and ensure equal conditions for that competition (by

preventing the misuse of administrative resources); guaranteeing the expression of the people's free will; enhancing the effectiveness of public supervision; and preventing, identifying, and thoroughly investigating electoral infringements. (Yegoryan, 2017). A research study on citizens' understanding of the electoral system revealed that most individuals did not have a comprehensive grasp of the institutional elements of the new MMM system during the 2008 and 2012 elections. We also establish that political campaigns significantly contribute to enhancing citizens' knowledge about the electoral process. As the election date draws nearer, citizens' understanding of the electoral system improves, but this knowledge tends to diminish after the election concludes. Furthermore, the occurrence of simultaneous presidential and legislative elections adversely affected the connection between political campaigns and electoral knowledge. The impact of gaining electoral knowledge during the 2012 concurrent elections was less pronounced than in the 2008 legislative election. Additionally, our results indicate a favorable correlation between electoral knowledge and voter turnout, implying that individuals who possess a greater understanding of the electoral system were more inclined to participate in the 2012 legislative election (Chi Huang, Hung-Chung Wang, 2013).

The election is a political science study that has broad perspectives; political media (Baulch et al., 2024; Heryanto et al., 2024; Iannone, 2022; Zalzillah & Gumelar, 2024), political institutions (Ahsan et al., 2023; Al Izzati et al., 2024; Desatova & Alexander, 2023; Huda et al., 2024; Methawikul et al.,

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2023), election violations (Borman et al., 2024; Chambers et al., 2023; Jatusripitak & Ricks, 2024; Wardani & Subekti, 2021), artificial intelligent (Armiwulan et al., 2024), or politics and gender (Doneys et al., 2024; Manju et al., 2024; Schmitz, 2023), pluralism (Sofyan et al., 2023), participation (Binh & Giai, 2021; Ting & Wan Ahmad, 2022), empty box (Purwaningsih & Cahya Widodo, 2021), challenged to oligarchy (Novianto & Wulansari, 2023), Democracy of Patronage and the Practice of Money Politics (Mahsun, 2020), and others.

As mentioned above, 'election' is one of the 'faces' of democracy, and Southeast Asia is a region that has experienced significant development in the implementation of democracy, especially elections. Every country in the region conducts elections within certain periods. Different writings have appeared and discussed various things about "elections" in each country. The astronomical writing on this topic in international journals makes the author interested to see the important points that appear in the different writings, for example, which countries produce the most writings on the term 'election', the cooperation that occurs between countries, what keywords appear most often, and themes that can be developed for further research.

One way to obtain comprehensive results as mentioned earlier, is through bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis has become increasingly popular as a robust method for the examination and interpretation of the literature in the fields of business and management (Öztürk et al., 2024). Bibliometric analysis is a widely used and systematic approach for examining and evaluating extensive scientific data. It allows us to uncover the developmental intricacies of a particular discipline while highlighting the new areas within that discipline (Donthu et al., 2021). Bibliometric analysis involves a statistical assessment of scientific journals, books, or chapters, serving as an important method for gauging the impact of publications in the scientific community (Iftikhar et al., 2019). The approaches employed for bibliometric analysis can be categorized into two types: (1) performance analysis and (2) science mapping. In essence, performance analysis assesses the contributions of various research entities, whereas science mapping explores the relationships among these research entities (Donthu et al., 2021).

There were 29 bibliometric research on 'election' in Scopus.com, from 2011 until 2024. Some discuss bibliometric 'election campaign' (Sanofi et al., 2024), mapping the political landscape on social media (Obreja, 2023), or discussing political knowledge and electoral violence (Laakso & Kariuki, 2023). Interestingly, none discusses the term "election" specifically in Southeast Asia. Therefore, this paper attempts to fill this gap by conducting a bibliometric analysis of the term 'election' specifically in Southeast Asia.

This review focused on articles on 'election' in certain Southeast Asian countries in the 2018-2024 period, from Scopus.com. Scopus was selected due to its extensive coverage across various disciplines, regular updates, and continuous enhancements, which contribute to its status as one of the most popular abstract and citation databases (Jasrotia et al., 2022; Mora et al.,

2017; Safrudin et al., 2024) for academic articles. Despite the articles produced in the United States of America (471) and United Kingdom (507) in the period, the articles from this region are far from adequate (Scopus.com September 2024). The chosen countries in this bibliometric review are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. This paper is expected to contribute to research trends related to 'elections' in Southeast Asia and suggest advanced research topics in this region

Methods

This article's methods were conducted according to techniques used in the article "Traditional Indonesian food: A bibliometric review from 2013-2022" (Djalal et al., 2022), with some adjustments.

a. Data Collection

The keyword 'election' was used in the search process in Scopus-indexed journals. Articles were collected from 68 sources, with a period of 2018-2024, and gathered on September 22, 2024. There are 100 documents with 248 authors, with 27 single-authored documents (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Main Information of the Collected Documents Obtained On Bibliometric Software

b. Bibliometric Analysis (Djalal et al., 2022)

The data set was collected and purified to an open refine (version 3.8.2) application for data refinement. The bibliometric analysis was then completed using Vosviewer (version 1.6.20), and Rstudio (bibliometric). The findings were then shown in figures and tables. The flow chart process is pictured in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Flowchart of Bibliometric Analysis

Findings and Discussion

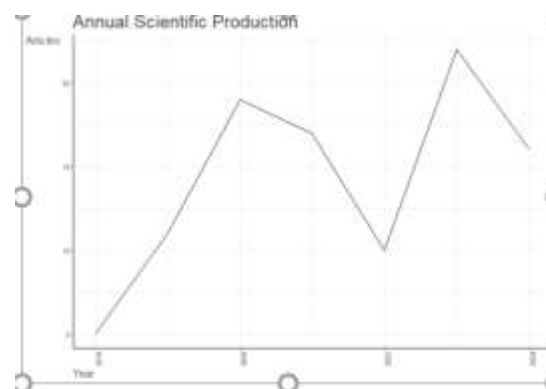a. General Performances of Selected Publications in The Research Field

Figure 3. Annual Scientific Production

As mentioned earlier we only focused on the articles with the keyword 'election' from 2018 to 2024. We found 100 papers from 68 sources with 248 authors. The above figures (Figure 3) showed the average number of publications in fluctuating trends, in 2018 (5 documents),

2019 (11 documents), 2020 (19 documents), 2021 (17 documents), 2022 (10 documents), 2023 (22 documents), 2024 (16 documents). There is an increased number in the first three years, and a decreased trend happened then reaching the peak in 2023, then decreasing again in 2024. The increasing publication indicated political events such as political elections in some counties, improvements in election technology, or contingency situations influenced or influenced by the election. While declining years could indicate that the election cycle was finished.

Figure 4 shows the top 10 leading sources in this field, with the Journal of Current of Southeast Asian Affairs (5 Documents), followed by Jurnal Komunikasi: Malaysian Journal of Communication (5 documents), placing the top sources for the keyword 'election' in the period. then Round Table with 4 papers, Humanities and Social Sciences Review, Public Affairs, Revista De Geastao Social E Ambietal 3 papers each, Cogent Social Sciences, Democratization, Hasanuddin Law Review, Indian Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology with 2 papers each in this cycle.
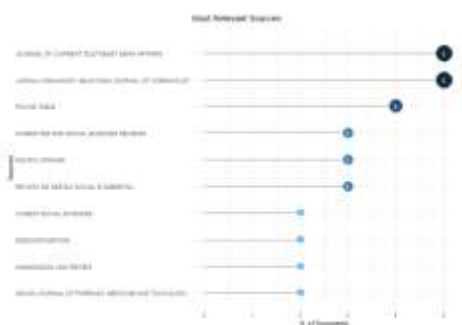

Figure 4. 10 Most Relevant Sources

b. Analysis of Country/Region and Author Contributions

The 2018 to 2024 cycle, demonstrated that Indonesia appeared as the most productive country for this topic, followed by Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the USA as shown in Figure 5. In that time, 2019, Indonesia delivered a general election and a presidential election, also some regional election (pilkada) was held in the same year. From 2019 to 2024 the political dynamic in Indonesia fluctuated, providing astronomical data and information to analyze and make them qualified articles. For the most average cited country per article in this field (Table 1), Indonesia gained a total of 68 citations followed by Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand. Although this article is limited to certain Southeast Asian countries, the citations came from various countries as shown in Table 1, indicating an international correlation of this topic.

Figure 6, demonstrated countries' collaboration networks, which showed that collaboration between Indonesia - Malaysia placed number one from the top ten collaborations with 4 collaboration articles. It was followed by Indonesia - Australia, Indonesia – Nigeria, Indonesia – USA, Singapore – UK, Singapore – USA, Thailand – Canada with 2 articles each, while Canada – Myanmar and Indonesia – Austria 1 article. Indonesia gained 16 collaboration articles with various countries among 100 articles, making Indonesia the most collaborated country in the Southeast from 2018 until 2024 for research field 'election.' It signed that the 'election' phenomenon in Indonesia has many interesting topics to

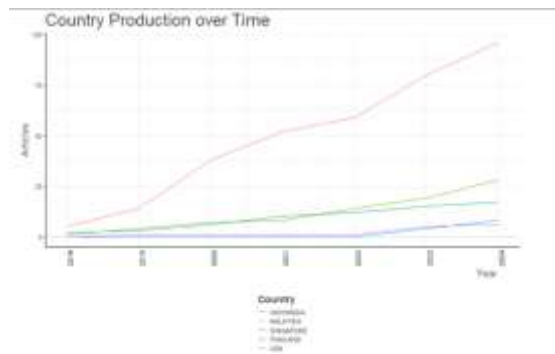subject. Meanwhile, Singapore placed the second position with 7 collaborations.

Figure 5. Country Production Over Time

Table 1. Most Cited Country

	Country	TC	Average A
2	INDONESIA	68	1.8
3	MALAYSIA	56	4.7
4	SINGAPORE	47	6.7
5	CANADA	24	24
6	AUSTRALIA	13	6.5
7	NETHERLANDS	7	7
8	SOUTH AFRICA	6	6
9	DENMARK	4	4
10	PHILIPPINES	4	2
11	THAILAND	3	1
12	NIGERIA	2	1
13	UNITED KINGDOM	2	1

Source: obtained from primary data

Figure 6. Countries Collaboration Network

An observation related to the most productive author in this topic from 2018-2024 showed the top ten contributors in

Figure 7. Al Fatih Sholahuddin and Marwiyah Siti, focused on Act No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Election that not arranged in a structured, systematic and massive standard, so it appears the section material that overlaps with Constitutional Court and the Constitution of 1945 (Prasetio et al., 2022), Asmorojati Anom Wahyu, discuss about simultaneous local election (Nugroho & Asmorojati, 2019), Dartanto Teguh, spotted on campaign finance (Virananda et al., 2021), Herawati Ratna, discuss on legal arrangement of election in pandemic period (Herawati et al., 2023), Puyok Arnold, analyze Sabah as fixed deposit state (Puyok & Sukhani, 2020), all of them published in the last 6 years. The top 5 most productive authors are from Indonesia, indicated in the period, political events, especially 'election' provide abundant data and dynamics to analyze and publish. Figure 8 demonstrated that the small circle indicated one publication and the large shape for one publication. The darkening color indicated higher citation. Marwiah Siti, Al-Fatih Sholahuddin, Asmorojati Anom Wahyu gained the most cited with 5 total citations for each of them. While Puyok Arnold and Achmad Wilya placed the most cited authors per year with 1,5 points (both of them published their article in 2023), followed by Marwawiyah Siti, Al Fatih Solahuddin, and Adamu Umar with 1 point, and the rest are under 1 point.
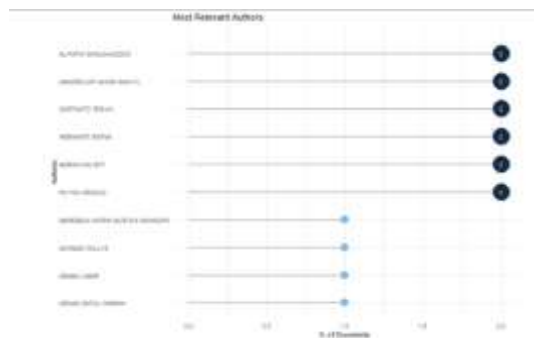
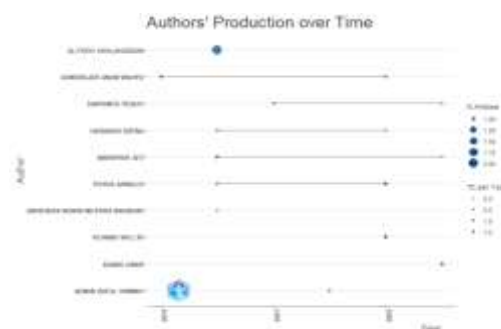Figure 7. The Most Productive Authors (2018-2024)

Figure 8. Author's Production and Most Cited Over Time

c. High Appearance Keywords Used in The Research Field

The most frequent keywords used by authors are 36 with at least 2 occurrences, clustered in 6 groups, as demonstrated in Table 2. Figure 9 shows circles that represent each keyword, the frequency of keywords appearing in the size of the circle, and the colour of the line indicates the cluster and also indicates their connection in one publication.

Table 2. Cluster of Keyword Related Topic

CLUSTER 1	CLUSTER 2	CLUSTER 3	CLUSTER 4
Activism	Education	Democratization	Election
Covid-19 Election Ideology Jakarta Media Media literacy Motivation Participation Politics Social media Young voters	Gender Indonesia Political participation Public opinion	Electoral management Thailand Women	campaign Faction Philippines Political parties
CLUSTER 5	CLUSTER 6	CLUSTER 7	CLUSTER 8
Democracy General election Incumbent Political party	Local government Malaysia Pakatan harapan	Constitutional court Elections Province	Local politics

Source: obtained from primary data

Figure 9, demonstrates the most frequently appearing keyword among articles, which is 'election', which occurred 31 times with 37 total link strengths, democracy (27), elections (26), Indonesia (17), and the rest are under 10 times.

In Figure 9, the word 'election' places the central position, indicating that it is the connector word for all of the appeared keywords of all articles. This expresses the various views of election, including institutional, political, and social in the respective research location. As mentioned above, citizen representation is gained

through elections, where democracy and political participation are intertwined. 'Media', 'ideology', and 'participation' have a direct link to elections, underlining their importance in a democratic country.

Election also has a close relation with 'democracy' and 'democratization', indicating the existence of an electoral process that advocates democratic governance. Free and fair elections with proper electoral institutions signal healthy democratization. 'Woman,' 'media literacy, and'' public opinion,' emerged as keywords that represent supporting agents for democracy and democratization.

'Political party' is a keyword that appears in cluster 5 keywords. In the election, the candidate should have a political party as their vehicle to compete in a political election, whether for executive or legislative positions. A political party is an organized group with shared orientations, values, and goals of the members, usually to achieve political power and take over power – constitutionally – to implement the programs (Budiarjo, 2007). The existence political party is one important indicator in the democratic system, as a 'space' for citizens to express themselves by entering and actively participating in political parties that align with their political values. A political party is a 'vehicle' for political candidates to compete whether as national/regional leaders or legislators. One of the political party's functions is to ensure adequate political education for citizens. Nowadays, political parties utilize social media to gain insight from public opinion on their parties. The advantages of social media for gaining public opinion are broader and various scopes, cheaper cost for data collecting than traditional surveys,

with immediate response (Eom et al., 2015).

'Election management bodies' appears as a keyword in Cluster 3 of Table 2. Election violations are an undeniable occurrence during elections. How the code of ethics is violated in the selection of regional head candidates is not solely due to the actions of the election organizers but is also influenced by the candidates and their success teams, who pressure the election organizers to breach ethical standards. Consequently, there is a need for an educational tool focused on ethics for regional head candidates, as well as a preliminary assessment of the candidate pairs for regional heads, and the sanctions for election organizers and prospective candidates that have yet to be defined in legislation (Arifudin & Nurwidyanto, 2021). The campaign materials that contravene the stipulations of the legislation related to installation, and certain materials remain set up despite the conclusion of the campaign period. This research suggests that there is a necessity for stringent oversight of the installation of campaign materials and educational efforts for election participants and the winning team to ensure compliance with election law provisions (Faridhi, 2020). The majority (52%) of Bawaslu's efforts to tackle election law violations through administrative and ethical standards. The Balinese Bawaslu could not respond to the allegations' findings, suggesting that Bawaslu does not have the authority to handle this matter, as their function is restricted to being support organizations that rely on help from other relevant bodies

responsible for addressing breaches of election law (Wirawan & Erawan, n.d.).

'Electoral management bodies,' and 'constitutional courts,' represent electoral entities that support each other to smooth the path of democracy. 'Constitutional court' also signals the importance of electoral credibility. The state and political institutions play a significant role in democracy. The difficulty in assessing the causal impact of direct elections on trust stems from the presence of underlying factors that affect the decision to implement direct elections. This decision could stem directly from a deficit of trust in governmental and political systems. Additionally, concealed variables may be connected to trust and the choice to initiate direct elections. (Al Izzati et al., 2024). An element that is consistently looked forward to and desired in the life of every nation and state, particularly in the electoral process, is the establishment of fairness, efficiency, and legal clarity. Permanent electoral justice institutions must be created, and staffed with judges and resources that possess the expertise necessary to address every election-related case to achieve an effective electoral justice system (Wicitra et al., 2024). Establishing a specialized election court/election under the principles of democratic rule of law is essential, as evidenced by the following points: The proposal for a special election court/election within the Administrative Court is referred to as the Election Court. This Special Court is situated in the capital of each province as part of the Administrative Court. This Court is empowered to hear and resolve disputes regarding Election Results, address

Election/Pilkada Crimes, and evaluate and adjudicate issues related to Election Administration/Election Disputes. This Special Court is part of the Administrative Court, located in each provincial capital. It holds the authority to hear and adjudicate disputes concerning Election Results (Firmanto & Sukirman, 2022).

Word that considered as a new theme in 'election' was 'social media' Election and political media have a close connection that could influence each other. Political parties view news media as significant, leading to transformations in their organizational structures and behaviors. Parties actively seek favorable media coverage and often lament the lack of sufficient or positive publicity. In particular, the analysis suggests that parties intentionally pursue optimistic media exposure. Campaign strategies and political declarations are designed largely to garner positive media attention. At the same time, political leaders play a vital role in achieving this objective (Bolin & Nord, 2024). A strategy solely focused on party-based issues or centered predominantly around national topics does not necessarily secure electoral victory. These results illuminate the complex role social media platforms play within political dialogues, illustrating the intricacies of the digital political landscape (Afonso et al., 2024). The execution of the political campaign for the 2014 legislative election in Pekalongan City involved various candidates and extensively used social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. Campaign messages were delivered through posts featuring the candidates' visions, mission statements, proposed programs, photos of activities, and political issues, all contributing to shaping their public images. The success of

the social media campaign during the legislative election in Pekalongan City in 2014 was largely determined by the candidates' skill in engaging users on social media. However, this did not greatly affect the public's perception of the candidates. The elements that improved the political campaign via social media in the 2014 legislative election in Pekalongan City included: a) the availability of gadgets and internet access, b) the candidates' expertise in using social media, and c) the involvement of political stakeholders (Rusda et al., 2017).

Beside 'social media,' 'young voters,' 'activism,' and 'motivation' are merely new themes in election research, but emerged as important factor that contributes to a broader discussion on 'election.' Maximizing a positive effort on these points will have a positive impact on political participation.

The co-occurrence keyword in Figure 9, expresses various aspects of 'election,' that have an influence on democracy, local and national governance, and finally social inclusion and human rights.

Figure 10 presents that election was the author's timeliest utilized keyword from 2020 until 2023, the most used keywords are election, elections, democracy, and Indonesia. Meanwhile, the newest keywords in this 'election' theme, are constitutional court, electoral management bodies, gender, motivation, and province. The data were examined and it was found that 'election' was used in the title 2019 (1 article), 2020 (3 articles), 2021 (1 article), and 2022 (2 articles).
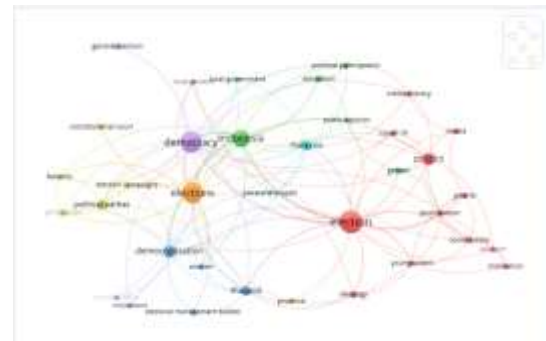

Figure 9. Co-Occurrence Keywords

Figure 10. Co-Occurrence Keywords According to Period (2020-2023)

d. Advancement Research Field

Figure 11 shows the trending topics related to the election in the above-selected countries. It shows that 'election' rose as a trending topic in 2021, 2022, and 2023 (24 articles), followed by 'Indonesia' in 2021 and 2022 (6 articles), then the term 'Malaysia' in 2019, 2021, and 2022 (6 articles), and 'party politics' in 2019 and 2020.

'Election' as the top trending topic, signifies this could correspond to a big number of national or regional elections. It is also influenced by local or global discourse on political media, political institutions, voter participation, or power transition in a country or region.

"Malaysia" and "Indonesia" arose as the second trending topic. It could be triggered by local phenomena in respective countries. Especially in 2018, Malaysia held

a general election that colored with the re-opened 1MDB scandal, and the back of Mahathir Mohammad as Malaysian Prime Minister. In Indonesia, presidential and legislative elections are held in 2019, surrounded by controversies on political identity, political participation, and policies that wound democracy.

"Affairs" appeared as an indication of the flip side of democracy, such as political scandals between government and entrepreneur, or executive that dominates legislative and judicative. This also could indicate corruption of political leaders, individual scandals, or geopolitical cases with another country.

"Political Parties" as a trending topic signifies the discourse that political parties are influenced by the internal dynamics of their members, also external situations. These internal-external dynamics always become factors that influence democracy in the country that implements this system.

From Figure 12 The Co-occurrence keywords, we found that the same color indicated the relation between the keywords. The term 'election' is related to politics, ideology, participation, social media, young voters, activation, motivation, COVID-19, media literacy, democracy, and local politics. The term 'democracy' is connected to the general election, incumbent, political participation, education, political parties, faction,

This configuration could be used as guidance to the advancement research field. Some suggestions can be made from this figure, namely: democracy and ideology, discuss how the empowerment of ideology is impactful for democracy; democracy and motivation that could explore the re-thinking of the motivational aspect of democracy implementation. 'election' also could be broadened by

analyzing the impact on constitutional court, faction or local government.

Keywords "electoral system," "democracy," and "democratization" suggest a wide study area that focuses on how different electoral systems (proportional representation, majoritarian system) influence democratic consolidation. Possible future research could compare both electoral systems on political inclusion, and political stability.

Inclusivity of this research field showed with keywords, such as; "social justice," youth engagement, and woman representation. This could be lead us to explore increasing initiatives on the representation of minority groups of voters – like people with disabilities, women, or youth influencing political behavior, policy agenda, and electoral results. Is there any factual improvement or only symbolic in governance?

The line between "media," "misinformation," and "voter participation," expresses the risk of disinformation during the election. Possible future research is to examine how negative campaigns affect voter opinion on a candidate, their participation, and the process of decision-making. Comparing the result of social media and traditional media in combating this negative media utilization.

Keywords "electoral management bodies," "constitutional court," and "governance "could be translated as the importance of election fairness shown by proper institutional frameworks. A possible research focus on the efforts of electoral management bodies in practice transparency. The role of the constitutional court also could be explored in managing public trust by fair decisions on political contestation.
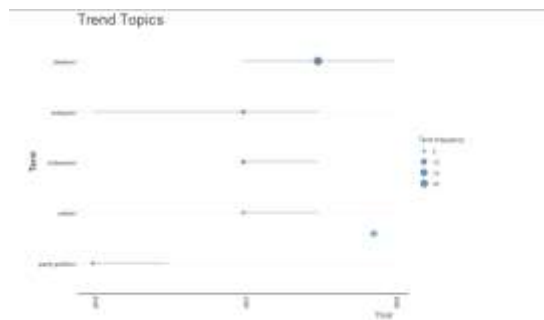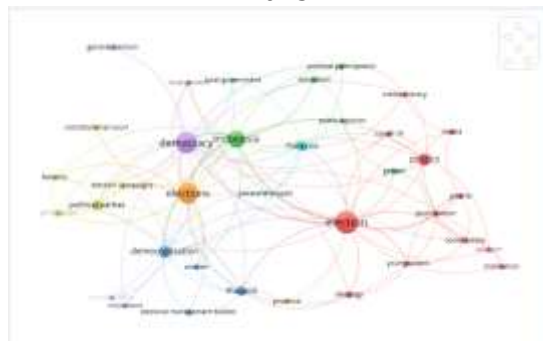
Figure 11. Trending Topics from 2019 – 2023

Figure 12. Co-occurrence Keyword

Conclusion

This insight concludes that research on a topic related to 'election' is in the fluctuating modes. The year 2023 has the most number of articles related to this topic. Indonesia is the most productive country related to this topic in this period (2018), and also has 10 collaborations among 100 documents. This paper provides a comprehensive insight into the term "election" in Southeast Asia, illustrating how the topic has evolved in line with the political dynamics of the region. It provides an overview of research foci of interest to scholars in the region, which can be used as reference material or developed further.

As for policymakers, this research provides input for improving electoral governance, predicting electoral problems, and becoming evaluation material for the conduct of future elections. Although it has several advantages, this paper certainly has limitations in that it does not include a comparison of this topic with other scholarly sources such as WoS, Google Scholar, or DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals).

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