Academic Trends on Information Disorder and Misinformation in Turkey: A Bibliometric Analysis of Graduate Theses (2005–2024) *

Türkiye'de Bilgi Düzensizliği ve Yanlış Bilgi Sorunu Üzerine Akademik Eğilimler: 2005–2024 Yılları Arasında Hazırlanmış Lisansüstü Tezlerin Bibliyometrik Analizi

ABSTRACT

With the widespread use of digital communication tools, concepts such as information disorder, misinformation, and disinformation have become critical issues in today's media landscape. Especially during election periods, social crises, and extraordinary events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the accuracy of information has emerged as a central focus in academic research. This study aims to examine academic production on the theme of information disorder in Turkey by conducting a bibliometric analysis of master's and doctoral theses.

Based on a keyword search in the National Thesis Center of the Council of Higher Education of Turkey, 65 theses prepared between 2005 and 2024 were identified using the terms "information disorder," "misinformation," "disinformation," "fake news," and "fact-checking platforms." While most of these studies are related to the field of communication, they also span a variety of disciplines. The theses are analyzed in terms of their main topics, thematic focus, research methods, and distribution over the years.

The findings indicate a significant increase in academic interest in information disorder and disinformation, particularly in the last five years. This study aims to contribute to the literature by mapping the academic trends in this field and offering insights specific to the Turkish context.

Keywords: Information disorder, Misinformation, Disinformation, Bibliometric analysis.

ÖZET

Dijital iletişim araçlarının yaygınlaşmasıyla birlikte, bilgi düzensizliği, yanlış bilgi ve dezenformasyon gibi kavramlar, günümüz iletişim ortamlarında önemli sorun alanları haline gelmiştir. Özellikle seçim süreçleri, toplumsal krizler, pandemi gibi olağanüstü dönemlerde bilginin doğruluğunu sağlama çabası, akademik araştırmaların odağına yerleşmiştir. Bu çalışma, Türkiye'de bilgi düzensizliği temasıyla hazırlanmış yüksek lisans ve doktora tezlerini inceleyerek, bu alandaki akademik üretimi bibliyometrik yöntemle analiz etmeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Yükseköğretim Kurulu Ulusal Tez Merkezi veri tabanında "bilgi düzensizliği", "yanlış bilgi", "dezenformasyon", "yalan haber" ve "doğrulama platformu" anahtar kelimeleriyle yapılan tarama sonucunda, 2005–2024 yılları arasında toplam 65 tez tespit edilmiştir. Bu çalışma, söz konusu tezleri bibliyometrik analiz yöntemiyle incelemekte; konu başlıkları, ana temalar, kullanılan yöntemler ve yıllara göre dağılımları açısından sistematik bir değerlendirme sunmaktadır. Tezlerin büyük bölümü iletişim bilimleriyle ilişkili olmakla birlikte, farklı disiplinlerde yürütülmüş çalışmalar da dikkate alınmıştır.

Elde edilen bulgular, özellikle son beş yılda bilgi düzensizliği ve dezenformasyon konularına yönelik akademik ilginin belirgin şekilde arttığını göstermektedir. Bu çalışma, Türkiye özelinde bu alandaki akademik eğilimleri ortaya koyarak literatürdeki genel yönelimi anlamaya katkı sunmayı hedeflemektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Bilgi düzensizliği, Yanlış bilgi, Dezenformasyon, Bibliyometrik analiz.

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INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The rapid advancement of digital technologies in today's world has significantly increased access to information; however, it has also made problems such as information disorder, disinformation, and misinformation more visible and impactful. Especially during election periods, crises, global pandemics, and major social events, the intensified digital flow of information facilitates the spread of false content. This situation not only affects individuals but also has serious societal consequences, disrupting decision-making processes based on accurate information. In this context, clarifying the key concepts used in the study is essential for conducting accurate analyses of the digital information environment. In a report prepared by First Draft for the Council of Europe, types of false information are classified as disinformation, misinformation, and malinformation. The collective issues arising from these three

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categories are defined under the term "information disorder" (Parlar Dal & Erdoğan). Disinformation refers to the deliberate creation and dissemination of false information with the intent to cause harm. Misinformation refers to the unintentional sharing of false or misleading content, while malinformation describes the dissemination of accurate but private information with harmful intent (Wardle, 2019).

Nowadays, misinformation is not only encountered in news content but also frequently appears in everyday materials such as tweets, images, or Instagram/Facebook posts shared on social media platforms. Whether the inaccurate content is intentional or harmful plays a significant role in determining the scope of the problem. Moreover, misinformation is not always entirely false; it can also be presented in a misleading, distorted, incomplete, or decontextualized manner. Therefore, rather than limiting information problems to the term "fake news," addressing them within the broader framework of "information disorder"—and understanding the distinctions between disinformation, misinformation, and malinformation—is crucial for effectively combating these issues (Erdoğan, Uyan Semerci, Eyolcu Kafalı, & Çaytaş, 2022).

Social media platforms provide an environment where information can rapidly reach large audiences. The potential for content shared on these platforms to go viral is remarkably high. Especially on platforms like Twitter and Facebook, sharing and retweeting mechanisms increase the reach and impact of both accurate and inaccurate information. According to a report published by the Integrity Institute, a "well-crafted lie" receives more engagement compared to accurate content. The structural features and algorithms of social media platforms are also among the factors that facilitate the spread of misinformation (Teyit.org, 2022). In addition to Twitter and Facebook, platforms such as TikTok have also become prominent spaces for the rapid spread of false content. According to a report by NewsGuard, a new user on TikTok can be exposed to disinformation related to the Ukraine war in less than 40 minutes. Furthermore, staged live streams using misleading videos have garnered millions of views, often monetized through TikTok's gift system (Sardarizadeh, 2022). Instagram, likewise, has served as a channel for spreading vaccine-related disinformation. Users have circumvented moderation by employing cryptic or co-opted hashtags such as #learntherisk and #mybodymychoice. Despite efforts to restrict harmful content, many of these hashtags remain active, allowing widely-debunked claims to circulate. Instagram's highly visual nature and limited linking functionality contribute to the spread and persistence of such misinformation (Cockerell, 2019).

One of the key concepts in combating these problems in the digital age is verification. In its simplest form, verification refers to the process of confirming the accuracy of information. Today, however, this concept goes beyond identifying factual correctness—it also involves assessing whether the content has been manipulated, whether visuals are presented out of context, and whether the information is framed with bias or prejudice (Teyit Sözlük, 2019; Parlar Dal & Erdoğan). Related to this process, fact-checking practices, which have become widespread in the digital era, are carried out using open sources, expert opinions, official documents, and various digital tools to assess the reliability of news, statements, and claims in the media. These initiatives, which have increased significantly worldwide in recent years, form a vital part of the fight against information disorder. According to Duke Reporters' Lab data, while there were only 11 fact-checking initiatives worldwide in 2008, this number increased to 417 in 2023 and reached 437 in the first quarter of 2024 (Ryan, 2024).

The reliability of fact-checking platforms is standardized through membership in the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), which evaluates them based on 32 criteria such as funding sources, organizational structures, and content production processes. Established in 2015 by the Poynter Institute in the United States, the IFCN currently includes 92 platforms from 55 countries (Özdemir, 2021). The IFCN (2020), founded within the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in Florida, aims to bring together fact-checking organizations from around the world and promote accountability and standardization in their work. From Turkey, Doğruluk Payı (2021) and Teyit.org (2016) have long been recognized as members of this network, and recently, Doğrula.org (2022) has also joined, aligning itself with international standards. Additionally, the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN) was established in 2022 with the participation of over 40 organizations to ensure high standards in methodology, ethics, and transparency within fact-checking. By adhering to the European Code of Standards, EFCSN membership serves as a commitment to impartiality, public service, and evidence-based verification. From Turkey, both Teyit.org and Doğrula.org have qualified for EFCSN membership.

Globally, many studies have been conducted on information disorder, misinformation, fake news, and media literacy. These studies, often based on cross-country comparisons, reveal why these concepts are becoming increasingly significant. For example, in the Media Literacy Index Report published by the Open Society Institute in 2018, education, media freedom, and public trust were analyzed across 35 European countries. According to the report, Turkey ranked second to last, just ahead of Macedonia, as one of the countries least resilient to fake news. Additionally, Turkey scored zero in the category of media freedom. In contrast, Finland, Denmark, the

Netherlands, Sweden, Estonia, and Ireland ranked among the most resilient countries against fake news (Bianet, 2018).

Building on these early findings, more recent comparative research continues to emphasize Turkey's particular vulnerability to information disorder. Another relevant study was conducted in 2018 by the Reuters Institute at Oxford University, which examined disinformation and misleading news across 37 countries. The results indicated that Turkey was the most affected country, with 49% of respondents reporting exposure to disinformation (Aktan, 2018). The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified scholarly and public attention toward the harmful consequences of misinformation. According to the Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2020, 56% of respondents from a sample of 80,000 people across 40 countries expressed concern about distinguishing between true and false information online. The report also identified social media as the leading global source of misinformation, with 40% of respondents indicating it as the primary channel through which false or misleading content spreads. In the case of Turkey, Facebook was cited by respondents as the most concerning platform in terms of exposure to misinformation (Yılmaz C. , 2021). Expanding the scope to current digital and political contexts, the 2024 edition of the Digital News Report offers further insight into Turkey's complex media environment. More recent data from the Reuters Digital News Report 2024 shows that media freedom and disinformation concerns persist in Turkey. The report highlights increased governmental control over traditional media, rising censorship pressures on digital platforms, and legal uncertainties affecting journalists and citizens alike. Moreover, 44% of Turkish respondents report sharing news online, while the majority express caution when discussing political matters on digital platforms, indicating a broader climate of self-censorship and mistrust (Newman, Fletcher, Robertson, Argueda, & Nielsen, 2024, s. 111).

In parallel, the rise of issue-specific disinformation—particularly around climate change—has emerged as a new frontier in information disorder. A 2023 report by the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) identifies a shift in climate disinformation from outright denial to a newer form of 'solution denialism'. According to the report, 70% of climate denial content on YouTube now falls into this 'new denial' category, which undermines or casts doubt on proposed climate solutions rather than denying climate change itself. While traditional denialist narratives have decreased to one-third of their former prevalence, solution-focused disinformation has tripled. These narratives often claim that phasing out fossil fuels will significantly reduce quality of life, that renewable energy requires disproportionately large land areas, and that policies promoting energy efficiency fail to reduce overall consumption. Such messaging not only distorts public understanding but also delays urgently needed policy action on climate change (Karadeniz, 2024).

Complementing these global studies, empirical research on the dynamics of online content diffusion offers critical insight into how misinformation spreads. Also in 2018, a significant study on the spread of false information was conducted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and published in Science. After its release, the findings were widely shared by Turkish news outlets and fact-checking organizations. The study revealed that tweets containing false information spread six times faster than those containing accurate information. Data scientists compiled 12 years of Twitter data and created a dataset using verification sources such as PolitiFact, Snopes, and FactCheck.org. The study found that 126,000 news stories were shared 4.5 million times by 3 million people. Notably, while accurate news rarely reached more than 1,000 users, false news regularly reached over 10,000 users (Çavuş, 2018).

Overall, these studies indicate that issues related to information disorder and misinformation were subjects of research even before the pandemic, became more visible during the pandemic, and continue to evolve in connection with current global challenges. This trend reflects growing societal and academic concerns, emphasizing the need to monitor developments, understand local contexts, and support fact-based communication efforts.

Although recent studies have explored misinformation and disinformation through databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, and DergiPark, this study intentionally focuses on graduate theses available in the Turkish Higher Education Council's (YÖK) National Thesis Center. This selection stems from the preliminary research phase of a doctoral dissertation on information disorder and misinformation in Turkey. The main aim is to identify academic trends in postgraduate studies on these issues within the context of Turkish higher education. Through this thesis-based approach, the study seeks to understand how academic interest in the subject is shaped across disciplines and how these topics are conceptualized within the national academic landscape. Thus, this article does not aim to present an exhaustive bibliometric mapping of the entire literature, but rather offers a focused view on postgraduate academic output within Turkish higher education institutions.

In light of these key concepts and research findings, the growing academic interest in combating information disorder becomes more apparent. To evaluate this trend specifically in the Turkish context, this study conducts a

bibliometric analysis of postgraduate theses in the Council of Higher Education's National Thesis Center database. Focusing on theses produced between 2005 and 2024 using keywords such as "information disorder," "misinformation," "disinformation," "fact-checking platform," and "fake news," the study aims to trace academic output in this field in Turkey and reveal the evolving trends and areas of focus. By systematically examining the frequency, disciplinary distribution, methodological preferences, and thematic content of these theses, this research provides insights into how Turkish academia has approached these issues over time. It also highlights the role of major events—such as elections, pandemics, and global crises—in shaping scholarly engagement with misinformation and disinformation.

Significance of the Study

In recent years, academic interest in concepts such as information disorder, misinformation, and disinformation has significantly increased. However, bibliometric analyses that systematically examine the academic production on these issues remain limited, particularly in the context of Turkey. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a comprehensive overview of graduate theses written in Turkey between 2005 and 2024, focusing on key themes related to information disorder and related concepts.

METHOD

This study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis of master's and doctoral theses in Turkey that focus on key concepts such as "information disorder", "misinformation", "disinformation", "fact-checking platforms", and "fake news". The research population consists of theses published between 2005 and 2024, which include the aforementioned keywords and are accessible through the National Thesis Center database of the Turkish Council of Higher Education (CoHE).

The data collection was carried out on February, 2024. A keyword search was conducted in the "subject" field using the terms information disorder, misinformation, disinformation, fact-checking platform, and fake news individually. Only completed and open-access master's and doctoral theses were included in the analysis. Duplicate records and studies deemed irrelevant to the research topic were excluded.

The data were categorized according to the following variables:

- ✓ Title of the thesis
- ✓ Year of publication
- ✓ Type (Master's / PhD)
- ✓ Language
- ✓ University
- ✓ Institute and Department
- ✓ Keywords

The collected data were transferred to Microsoft Excel for organization and analysis. After removing duplicate entries, the data were analyzed based on the specified categories. Numerical distributions are presented in tables, and the trends observed are discussed in the findings section.

Bibliometric analysis is a descriptive method used to quantitatively examine academic literature based on various metrics such as publication year, author, keywords, and research area. In this study, bibliometric analysis was chosen to systematically identify postgraduate theses in Turkey that focus on information disorder, misinformation, and related concepts. This method allows for mapping academic trends across disciplines and understanding the scope and focus of existing research. As applied in prior studies (e.g., Dondurucu & Çetinkaya, 2024), bibliometric analysis supports categorizing documents by predetermined criteria, enabling researchers to detect patterns and gaps in a given field. This approach was deemed appropriate for evaluating thesis-level research in the context of Turkish higher education.

In this study, the bibliometric analysis method was chosen due to the nature of the research. Initially, the need to examine previous theses on disinformation, misinformation, and information disorder in Turkey emerged as part of a doctoral study aiming to identify the current academic landscape and clarify the original contribution of the research. As the number of relevant theses increased, it became necessary to analyze the data in a more systematic way, leading to the adoption of a bibliometric approach. This method not only helped to structure the research questions but also contributed significantly to making the academic trends in the Turkish context more visible.

During the data collection process, only two theses were found to have restricted access in the CoHE National Thesis Center database. Although the full texts of these studies were not available, basic information such as the title, year, keywords, and abstract (if available) were used in the analysis. As these cases were rare, they did not significantly affect the overall evaluation.

FINDINGS

As part of this study, 65 graduate theses uploaded to the National Thesis Center database of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) in Turkey between 2005 and 2024 were examined under the themes of "information disorder", "misinformation", "disinformation", "fact-checking platforms", "fake news", and "false information". The theses were evaluated based on various parameters such as publication year, type of university, academic department, research topic, objectives, methodology, and findings. Keywords and the language of the publications were also included in the scope of the analysis. According to the data presented in Table 1, a significant concentration of theses is observed particularly after 2020.

Table 1: Bibliometric Analysis of Studies on Information Disorder, Misinformation, Disinformation, Fact-Checking Platforms, and Fake News in the Field of Communication Sciences in the CoHE National Thesis Center Database (2005–2024)

No	Search Term	Author	Year	Thesis Title	Type	University	Public/Private	Subject	Purpose/Scope	Keywords	Language
1	Information Disorder	B.A. Yılmaz	2022	The concept of information disorder and investigation of the world health organization in the context of infodemic management policies during the covid-19 process	Master's Degree	İstanbul University	State University	Health Care Management; Political Science; Iternational Relations	This study examines the dissemination of misinformation during the Covid-19 period and the World Health Organization's (WHO) infodemic management policies. By analyzing types of misinformation, the concept of disinformation, and the preventive measures implemented by WHO, the study evaluates the key strategies in combating infodemic-related challenges.	World Health Organization, information disorder, epidemic information networks, infodemic, misinformation, disinformation	Turkish
2	Misinformation	A. Lutsenko	2024	Countering disinformation in the digital age: Exploring human-AI collaboration in media	Master's Degree	İstanbul Bilgi University	Private University	Communication Sciences	As information dissemination accelerates in the digital era, combating disinformation becomes increasingly challenging. This article explores the role of human expertise and artificial intelligence collaboration in countering disinformation. By analyzing the impact of human-AI partnerships on the media, the study aims to provide practical insights for media professionals, technology experts, and policymakers in maintaining information integrity.	Artificial intelligence, disinformation, machine learning, media, human collaboration	English
3	Misinformation	M. Şentöregil	2024	Combating misinformation in the post-truth era: An analysis of fake news about migrants	Doctorate	Anadolu University	State University	Journalism	This study examines the misinformation circulating about migrants in Turkey through fact-checking platforms such as doğrula.org, dogrulukpayi.com, and teyit.org. The study employs qualitative content analysis to evaluate the platforms' fact-checking posts and user comments.	Post-truth, fake news, misinformation, disinformation, fact-checking platforms, migrants, content analysis	Turkish
4	Misinformation	Y. İris	2023	Hate speech and misinformation: Descriptive content analysis of posts about Syrian refugees	Master's Degree	Üsküdar University	Private University	Journalism	This thesis investigates hate speech and misinformation concerning Syrian refugees shared on Twitter. It explores how new media environments contribute to social polarization and fuel	Hate speech, misinformation, new media, Twitter, Syrian refugees, racism	Turkish

								hostility through misinformation. A descriptive content analysis was conducted on 50 selected tweets out of 200 shared between June 1 and October 31, 2022, categorized under hate speech and misinformation.		
5	Misinformation	Ö. Özgüleç	2023	Social media use and misinformation problem in disaster situations	Master's Degree	Üsküdar University	Private University	Journalism	This study examines the risks posed by misinformation circulating on social media during disasters. Suspicious news reports shared between February 6 and March 3, 2023, were selected from fact-checking platforms such as Doğruluk Payı, verification services, and teyit.org, and analyzed using descriptive analysis.	Disaster, social media, misinformation, post-truth	Turkish
6	Misinformation	U.B. Karaoğlanoğlu	2021	The dynamics of political information environments in the age of misinformation	Master's Degree	Boğaziçi University	Devlet	Political Science; Communication Sciences	This thesis explores the relationship between individuals' news consumption behaviors and the information environments they engage with. In the context of the "age of misinformation," it examines how distrust in information and critical news consumption behaviors relate to structural changes in political information ecosystems.	Unspecified	English
7	Misinformation	G. Salman	2021	Analysis of user verification behavior towards misinformation in social media	Doctorate	Anadolu University	Devlet	Communication Sciences	This study examines fact-checking behaviors in response to false or questionable information on social media. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study employs descriptive analyses, t-tests, MANOVA, and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to analyze factors influencing accuracy verification.	Social media, misinformation, verification behavior	Turkish
8	Misinformation	E. Meriç	2020	Food and nutrition literacy in social media and the problem of false information	Master's Degree	Kadir Has University	Private University	Public Relations	This study investigates how Turkish social media users comprehend, interpret, and evaluate accurate and inaccurate information regarding food and nutrition. A mixed-methods approach was employed,	Social media, food and nutrition, misinformation, literacy, media literacy	Turkish

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								incorporating content analysis, media diaries, and in-depth interview techniques.		
9	Misinformation	S. Andı	2019	Essays on social media, politics and misinformation	Doctorate	Koç University	Private University	Political Science; Communication Sciences	This thesis examines the dissemination of misinformation on social media platforms and its impact on political information. It analyzes how social media usage in Turkey influences political knowledge, explores the structure of partisan echo chambers, and investigates the role of emotions and echo chambers in misinformation sharing.	Misinformation, disinformation, echo chambers, political information, experiment, computational social sciences	English
10	Disinformation	S. Küçükoruç	2024	Dare to share? How anti-disinformation policies affect online news-sharing behavior in Türkiye	Master's Degree	İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University	Private University	Communication Sciences	This thesis investigates how state-level misinformation mitigation strategies influence individuals' engagement with online news in states with authoritarian tendencies. The impact of Turkey's disinformation law on news-sharing behavior was examined through a 2x2 between-subjects online survey experiment involving 228 university students.	Disinformation, news sharing, online anonymity, social media	English
11	Disinformation	M.B Yıldırım	2024	Infodemic and migration communication: A study on the dynamics of disinformation sharing about migrants on social media	Doctorate	Marmara University	State University	Public Relations; Communication Sciences	This study examines the factors influencing the dissemination of disinformation about migrants, utilizing relevance theory, cognitive load theory, and the negative attitudes toward migrants perspective. Using scales developed by Apuke & Omar (2019) and Günay (2019), pilot research and reliability analyses were conducted.	Infodemic, disinformation, information disorder, social media, migrants, migration communication	Turkish
12	Disinformation	Ö.F. Nazlım	2024	Information and disinformation perception of generation Z in the context of the changing consumer society: A Research on social media news consumption behavior	Master's Degree	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Public Relations	This thesis investigates the impact of Generation Z's perceptions of disinformation and trust in social media news on their news consumption motivations. A quantitative research method was employed, with a survey administered to 337 participants, and hypotheses were tested using the relational screening model.	Generation Z, information and disinformation, social media trust perception, social media news consumption motivation	Turkish

13	Disinformation	R. Uygun	2024	Legal control of disinformation in the digital age and analysis of world examples	Master's Degree	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Public Relations; Communication Sciences	This study examines the role and effects of Turkey's Press Law No. 7418 in combating disinformation. The content of the law, its implementation in the media and internet sectors, and its impact on press and freedom of expression were analyzed. A comparative assessment with international standards was conducted, incorporating expert opinions and qualitative methods to evaluate public perception.	Political communication, disinformation, children	Turkish
14	Disinformation	H. Oymak	2024	National and international regulations on the protection of children from disinformation: The case of Turkiy	Master's Degree	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Communication Sciences	This study investigates disinformation mitigation strategies worldwide and in Turkey. It specifically addresses the risks and threats posed by children's exposure to online disinformation and examines national and international measures taken to counter these risks.	Political communication, disinformation, children	Turkish
15	Disinformation	Ö. Demirel	2024	Examining disinformation content in perception management through digital media in the post truth era: February 6 Kahramanmaraş earthquake	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Public Relations	This study examines how disinformation was utilized in perception management through digital media during the February 6 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake. Using descriptive text analysis, news articles, social media posts, and online content were analyzed to reveal the role of disinformation in information pollution and perception processes.	Disinformation, post-truth, digital media, perception management	Turkish
16	Disinformation	A.İ. Sungar	2024	An example of state institutions combating disinformation in times of crisis: Analysis of earthquake bulletins of the Presidental Directorate of Communications	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Journalism	This study examines the activities of the Turkish Presidency's Directorate of Communications Disinformation Combat Center (DMM) during the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes and its role in crisis journalism. The effectiveness of fact-checking platforms in combating disinformation was analyzed, and the neutrality and functionality of	Disinformation, fact-checking platform, crisis journalism, Turkish Directorate of Communications	Turkish

								the institution during crises were assessed through an interview with a DMM official.		
17	Disinformation	M. Demir	2024	In Turkey in the context of the concept of disinformation a review on the legal arrangements made	Master's Degree	Sivas Cumhuriyet University	State University	Journalism; Radio and Television	This study analyzes the legal regulations introduced in Turkey between 1925 and 2022 to combat disinformation. It examines the relationship between new media, social media, and disinformation, evaluating press laws and legal provisions through content analysis.	Communication studies, new media, social media, information disorder, disinformation, legal regulations (1925-2022), content analysis	Turkish
18	Disinformation	A.K. Korkmaz	2024	Investigation of disinformation activities on Twitter within the scope of the Russian-Ukraine war	Master's Degree	İbn Haldun University	State University	Radio and Television	This study investigates how fact-checking platforms addressed disinformation spread on Twitter during the Russia-Ukraine Crisis. The approaches of Teyit.org, Doğruluk Payı, Malumatfuruş, Yalansavar, and AA Check Fact toward claims shared between February 1-24, 2022, were analyzed using content analysis.	Disinformation, digital media, Russia-Ukraine crisis, social media, Twitter	Turkish
19	Disinformation	T. Ünlücan	2023	Within the scope of social media and perception management; manipulation, disinformation and propaganda in X: An investigation on fake accounts and operational accounts opened in the name of opinion pioneers	Master's Degree	Akdeniz University	State University	Public Relations	This study examines the manipulation, disinformation, and propaganda strategies employed by fake and operational accounts on the X (Twitter) platform. Through critical discourse analysis, the study reveals the social media perception management techniques utilized by these accounts.	Social media, perception management, disinformation, manipulation, propaganda, opinion leaders	Turkish
20	Disinformation	E. Çelikel	2023	Social media and influencing opinion: An analysis of posts about refugees and migrants on Instagram in the context of manipulation and disinformation	Master's Degree	Fırat University	State University	Communication Sciences	This study analyzes Instagram posts about refugees and migrants in the context of disinformation and manipulation. Using the hashtags "#norefugees" and "#mülteciistemiyorum," 40 posts were subjected to photographic analysis, and qualitative data analysis methods were applied.	Social media, Instagram, refugees, migrants, persuasive communication, disinformation, information	Turkish
21	Disinformation	T. Sığırcı	2023	Disinformation in Russia and Ukraine war news on social	Master's Degree	İstanbul Ticaret University	Private University	Communication Sciences	This study examines the impact of disinformation campaigns circulated on Twitter during the	Russia, Ukraine, war, disinformation, Twitter, social	Turkish

				media: The case of Twitter (X)					Russia-Ukraine war on public opinion and the challenges of social media journalism regarding disinformation. The strategies employed and their effects on content dissemination were analyzed.	media	
22	Disinformation	F. Kübra Aldemir	2023	Influence operations and combating disinformation: A critical analysis of Turkey's strategic communication policy	Master's Degree	Police Academy	State University	Public Relations; Political Science; International Relations	This study aims to critically analyze the definition, applications, and policies of strategic communication in Turkey. The strategic communication approaches of the U.S., NATO, Russia, and Turkey were compared to examine how information operations are conducted.	Influence operations, disinformation, strategic communication, information operations, Turkish Presidency's Directorate of Communications, Stratcom	Turkish
23	Disinformation	I. E. Hammedı Al-Alı	2023	Public disinformation in the scope of digital media: The case of the Russia-Ukraine War	Master's Degree	Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University	State University	Journalism	This study investigates the spread of disinformation in digital media during the Russia-Ukraine war. News from Russian (Ria), Ukrainian (Pravda), and Turkish (Milliyet) sources between January 1 and March 31, 2023, were analyzed using content analysis.	Digital media, disinformation, public opinion	Turkish
24	Disinformation	S A. Abdullah Shakır	2023	Examining the concept of post-truth in the scope of information verification and disinformation in new media tools	Master's Degree	İstanbul Gelişim University	Private University	Radio and Television	This study examines information disorders in the post-truth era by assessing the impact of Teyit.org on fake news, fact-checking, and disinformation. News articles published on the platform between January 2019 and January 2022 were analyzed.	Post-truth, disinformation, fact-checking, fake news	Turkish
25	Disinformation	G. Köroğlu	2023	Disinformation and false consciousness building in new media: The case of irregular immigrants	Master's Degree	Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University	State University	Journalism; Radio and Television; Sociology	This study investigates how disinformation and the construction of false consciousness regarding irregular migrants occur in new media. A total of 31 news articles from social media and digital newspapers were analyzed using critical discourse analysis to examine disinformation methods.	Irregular migrants, new media, disinformation, false consciousness construction	Turkish
26	Disinformation	A. Önen	2023	Working practices of	Doctorate	İstanbul	State	Journalism;	This study explores the	Ideology,	Turkish

				new media journalism and fact-checking organizations on the axis of information circulation and disinformation		University	University	Communication Sciences	relationship between disinformation, political authority, and the media ecosystem. It aims to critically assess the opportunities and limitations of fact-checking platforms in addressing information disorders.	disinformation, post-truth, new media journalism, fact-checking platforms	
27	Disinformation	A.B. Dilipak	2023	Disinformation and digital activism in the post-truth era	Master's Degree	Üsküdar University	Private University	Sociology	This study examines the impact of fake news on digital activism. Five disinformative news items that circulated on Twitter following the February 6, 2023, Kahramanmaraş earthquake were analyzed using critical discourse analysis to assess their effects on digital activist attitudes.	Digital activism, disinformation, earthquake, post-truth, Twitter	Turkish
28	Disinformation	H. Bayraktar	2022	The role of the press in preventing the disinformation made in the new media regarding the Covid-19 vaccine during the pandemic period: The case of Hürriyet and Sözcü	Master's Degree	Üsküdar University	Vakıf	Journalism	This study investigates the stance of traditional media against anti-vaccine narratives related to Covid-19. News articles published in Hürriyet and Sözcü between December 2020 and August 2022 were analyzed to determine how the media attempted to counter vaccine opposition.	Anti-vaccination, press, COVID-19 vaccine, COVID-19 pandemic, new media	Turkish
29	Disinformation	E. Topçu	2022	Disinformation on social media: The case of the COVID-19 pandemic	Master's Degree	İstanbul Ticaret University	Vakıf	Communication Sciences	This study examines the role of social media in the dissemination of misinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fact-checks conducted on "coronavirus" by Teyit.org over a one-year period were analyzed to assess the spread of fake news.	Social media, disinformation, COVID-19, information pollution, fake news	Turkish
30	Disinformation	B. Çandır	2022	The disinformation map of press in Türkiye: An analysis on social problems	Master's Degree	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Journalism	This study analyzes how disinformation spreads through media in Turkey and its impact on public information acquisition. Misleading and distorted news published in print media between 2018 and 2020 was examined using content analysis.	Information, disinformation, misinformation, malinformation, post-truth, femicide, economic crisis	Turkish
31	Disinformation	A. Dahi	2022	Social media disinformation and fake news in the post-truth era: The case of	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study examines the extent of disinformation spread on social media and mainstream news websites during the Covid-19	COVID-19, disinformation, filter bubbles, British cultural studies,	Turkish

			the COVID-19 outbreak in Turkey				pandemic. Using the BuzzSumo tool, the engagement levels of fake news were analyzed, and content analysis was conducted on misinformation published by Hürriyet, Milliyet, Sabah, NTV, and Sözcü through the Teyit.org platform.	counter-surveillance, counter-culture, misinformation, echo chambers, new media	
32	Disinformation	A.Şeberoğlu	2021	Disinformation within the framework of Twitter shares of Anadolu Agency's in the process of the Peace Spring Operation	Master's Degree	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Radio and Television; Communication Sciences	This study aims to examine the disinformation campaigns conducted by terrorist group supporters on Twitter during the Operation Peace Spring and Anadolu Agency's fact-checking efforts against these campaigns within the framework of framing theory.	Media, new media, social media, Twitter, information, disinformation, Operation Peace Spring	Turkish
33	Disinformation	Y. E. Ertem	2019	Disinformation in social media	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Communication Sciences	This study aims to examine cases of disinformation encountered on social media platforms. The analysis focuses on false information disseminated both in Turkey and in international social media environments.	Internet, social media, information, communication, disinformation	Turkish
34	Disinformation	Ç. Keser	2019	Disinfomation in healt broadconting: The case of Zahide Yetis'le	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Journalism; Radio and Television	This study aims to investigate how disinformation is produced under the guise of health broadcasting in the television program "Zahide Yetiş'le" and the mechanisms through which it is disseminated.	Disinformation, health journalism, Zahide Yetiş, television broadcasting, science journalism	Turkish
35	Disinformation	Y.Toktay	2019	The effect of propaganda and manipulation, disinformation in social media: The case of operation Olive Branch	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Radio and Television; Political Science; Communication Sciences	This study examines the disinformation, manipulation, and propaganda activities carried out by PKK/YPG and its sympathizers on social media during the Operation Olive Branch. It aims to identify the perception management strategies employed and analyze the false information disseminated through digital media.	Social media, disinformation, manipulation, propaganda, PKK/YPG	Turkish
36	Disinformation	L. Gasımlı	2019	Propaganda, disinformation and manipulation in news: A comparative	Master's Degree	İstanbul Aydın University	Private University	Journalism; Public Relations; Communication Sciences	This study aims to identify disinformation, misinformation, and propaganda elements related to the Dağlık-Karabağ issue in the	Mass communication, disinformation in news, propaganda in	Turkish

				analysis of news on the question of Karabakh casted in Azerbaijan and Armenian news portals					most widely read news websites of Azerbaijan and Armenia. News articles published between March and April 2016 were analyzed using discourse analysis.	news, objective journalism, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict	
37	Disinformation	N.Toprak	2015	Ethics of news, misinformation and disinformation in the online journalism	Master's Degree	Afyon Kocatepe University	State University	Science and Technology; Journalism; Communication Sciences	This research aims to examine the scope and effects of misinformation and disinformation in online journalism from an ethical perspective. The study explores the transformative impact of the internet on journalism and evaluates how principles such as accuracy, impartiality, and transparency should be upheld in online news reporting.	Online journalism, news ethics, misinformation, disinformation	Turkish
38	Disinformation	A.C. Aşkın	2014	The globalization of disinformation and the case of the Western press coverage of NATO's Kosovo Operation	Master's Degree	İstanbul University	State University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study aims to analyze the globalization of disinformation alongside the globalization of communication. It particularly focuses on how NATO's Kosovo operation was legitimized in Western media and the role of disinformation in shaping international public opinion.	Disinformation, globalization, NATO, Kosovo war, Yugoslavia, Milosevic, ethnic cleansing, Serbians, Kosovar Albanians, Western media	Turkish
39	Disinformation	H. Alp	2011	Media disinformation during globalization process and Example off Iraq invasion	Master's Degree	İstanbul Kültür University	Private University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study examines the effects of globalization on the media sector, focusing on changes in media ownership and the impact of monopolization on media economics. The role of media in disseminating neo-liberal policies, the one-sided nature of news flows, and disinformation processes are analyzed to assess the political and economic implications of the global media order.	Media, disinformation, globalization, war, journalism, Iraq, capital	Turkish
40	Disinformation	P. Gürleyen	2005	Disinformation in Television Journalism: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of High-Speed Train	Master's Degree	Galatasaray University	State University	Radio and Television	The publication of this thesis is restricted in the database.	This thesis is restricted in the database	Fransızca

			Accident News							
41	Fact-Checking Platforms	M.M. Rahman	2024	Fake news and fact-checking platforms in new media in Bangladesh	Master's Degree	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to examine the spread of fake news in Bangladesh and the role of fact-checking platforms in this process. The effects of misinformation in the new media environment are analyzed, along with the methodologies and challenges faced by fact-checking organizations operating in Bangladesh.	Bangladesh, new media, fake news, fact-checking platforms	Turkish
42	Fact-Checking Platforms	E.N. Aydemir	2024	Journalism in the post-truth age: Examination through verification platforms	Master's Degree	Erciyes University	State University	Radio and Television	This study examines how misinformation disseminated after the February 6, 2023, Kahramanmaraş earthquake was shaped within the "post-truth" context and the role played by fact-checking platforms (Teyit.org, Doğruluk Payı, Doğrula.org) in addressing this misinformation.	New media journalism, post-truth, fake news, fact-checking platforms	Turkish
43	Fact-Checking Platforms	Ö. Delal Abanoz	2023	Fact-checking ecosystem in Turkey and user practices of using fact-checking platforms	Doctorate	Selçuk University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to evaluate the role of fact-checking platforms in Turkey in combating fake news. The study analyzes the content of these platforms and examines users' new media literacy and verification habits.	Fact-checking platforms, fake news, post-truth	Turkish
44	Fact-Checking Platforms	A.Ş. Çiçeklioğlu	2019	Content verification platforms in new media: The case of teyit.org	Master's Degree	Mersin University	State University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study aims to examine the role of fact-checking platforms in countering the rapid spread of fake news in new media environments. Within this scope, the verification activities of Teyit.org in 2018 were analyzed, evaluating the spread of fake news, content types, and verification processes.	New media, fake news, verification, Teyit.org	Turkish
45	Fact-Checking Platforms	M. Uluk	2018	Fake news in new media and post truth era: A case study on Teyit.org as a fact-checking organisations	Master's Degree	İstanbul University	State University	Journalism; Public Relations; Communication Sciences	This study aims to investigate the online presence of news stories labeled as false by Turkey's first fact-checking platform, Teyit.org. The research examines the duration of fake news on the internet, social media interactions,	New media, fake news, post-truth, verification, Teyit.org	Turkish

									and the presence of advertisements within these false reports.	
46	Fake News	S. Yeles Karaman	2024	Fake news and media literacy: The effects of media literacy on media bias	Doctorate	Selçuk University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to examine the impact of media literacy on media bias, trust in media, and confidence in news content published across different media channels.	Fake news, media literacy, media bias, trust in media, fake news sharing	Turkish
47	Fake News	H. Androon	2023	The impact of fake news on the daily lives of Syrian refugees	Master's Degree	Mersin University	State University	Radio and Television	This study investigates the impact of fake news about Syrian refugees in the media on their daily lives and their relations with Turkish society.	Fake news, post-truth, Syrian refugees, Teyit.org	Turkish
48	Fake News	Ö. Dönmezçelik	2023	Fake news and Covid-19 vaccines in the post-truth era: A social network analysis on anti-vaccine arguments in Twitter hashtags	Doctorate	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University	State University	Philosophy; Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study examines the spread of disinformation in the post-truth era on social media by analyzing the arguments and strategies used in anti-COVID-19 vaccine discourse on Twitter.	Post-truth, fake news, social network, anti-vaccine discourse, COVID-19	Turkish
49	Fake News	Z.N. Arkan	2022	Discourse analysis on fake news in the post-truth era: The example of Twitter	Doctorate	Marmara University	State University	Public Relations	This study analyzes the circulation of fake news on social media during the annulment and rerun of the 2019 Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality elections. It examines how ideologically influenced media outlets fueled political polarization.	Post-truth, Twitter, fake news, critical discourse analysis, social media	Turkish
50	Fake News	E.M. Nalbantoğlu	2022	Influence of fake news published on digital media to people and brands	Master's Degree	İstanbul Bilgi University	Private University	Communication Sciences	This study examines the effects of fake news disseminated in digital media on human behavior and brands. It investigates how fake news manipulates individuals' decision-making, its dissemination dynamics, and the damage it inflicts on brands, analyzing the social and economic consequences of disinformation.	Fake news, social media, word-of-mouth communication, viral marketing, branding	Turkish
51	Fake News	S. Akar	2022	The role of individuals' system level emotions in evaluating fake news	Master's Degree	Bursa Uludağ University	State University	Psychology; Communication Sciences	This study compares the cognitive and social factors that influence belief in and dissemination of fake news. It examines the effects of cognitive reflection, need for cognition, political ideology,	Fake news, post-truth, system justification tendencies, system-level emotions, political ideologies,	Turkish

										system justification tendencies, and system-level emotions on fake news evaluations.	cognitive reflection, need for cognition	
52	Fake News	R. Taşan	2022	The role of metaliteracy self-efficiency in verifying fakenews encountered	Doctorate	Akdeniz University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to examine the impact of meta-literacy on individuals' ability to perceive and critically assess fake news in the digital information ecosystem. A "Meta-Literacy Self-Efficacy Scale" was developed, and a nationwide field study was conducted in Turkey.	Metaliteracy, fake news, verification	Turkish
53	Fake News	S. Gökkılıç	2021	Popülism and fake news in the new media: An example of Syrian refugees in Turkey	Master's Degree	İstanbul University	State University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study examines how populist rhetoric is linked to fake news and its impact on minority groups, particularly Syrian refugees. The potential of disinformation disseminated through social media to increase polarization and hostility within society is explored.	Populism, fake news, new media, refugees, Syrians	Turkish
54	Fake News	İ.C. Sönmez	2021	New media and fake news within the framework of the post-truth phenomenon	Master's Degree	Ankara University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to examine the relationship between the post-truth phenomenon, new media, and fake news. The historical evolution of post-truth is analyzed through the concept of truth, questioning how new communication technologies have enhanced its influence.	Post-truth, truth, new media, fake news, post-truth era, populism	Turkish
55	Fake News	E. Fakibaba	2021	Journalistic truth and 'fake news'	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to analyze how internet journalists perceive news authenticity and verification processes in the post-truth era. It evaluates Turkish journalists' perceptions of fake news, their professional practices, and fact-checking procedures.	News, fake news, journalistic truth, post-truth, fact-checking platforms, journalists in Turkey	Turkish
56	Fake News	M. Mohammed	2020	Cyberspace and fake news: A new phenomenon in electoral politics in Ghana	Master's Degree	Sakarya University	State University	Sociology	This study examines the impact of cyberspace on election processes in Ghana and evaluates the roles of social media and mainstream media in elections. Additionally, it explores how fake news during election periods affects democracy and discusses potential	Cyberspace, fake news, elections, democracy, Ghana	English

								strategies to combat misinformation.		
57	Fake News	M. Mimaroğlu	2019	Fake news of the circulation with new media: The case of whatsapp	Master's Degree	Mersin University	State University	Journalism; Radio and Television; Communication Sciences	This study investigates the role of WhatsApp in spreading fake news and misinformation. Specifically, it examines how instant messaging applications, due to their low regulatory oversight, facilitate the dissemination of false information.	WhatsApp, instant messaging, fake news, disinformation, misinformation	Turkish
58	Fake News	F. Akpulat	2019	Fake news and crisis communication management in social media	Master's Degree	Galatasaray University	State University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study aims to examine the crisis potential of fake news that rapidly circulates with the widespread use of social media and the communication strategies that can be implemented to manage such crises. Given the limited literature on fake news and crisis communication, this research seeks to contribute academically to the field.	Crisis, crisis communication management, fake news, social media	Turkish
59	Fake News	M. Büyükafşar	2019	The relationship between news and truth: 'Fake news' and fact-checking practices	Doctorate	Marmara University	State University	Journalism	This study investigates the impact of new communication technologies on the production, distribution, and consumption of news, assessing the relationship between news and truth based on fake news and fact-checking practices. Furthermore, it aims to develop a new classification model outlining the stages and methods of news verification.	News accuracy, fake news, fact-checking	Turkish
60	Fake News	R. Gurbanova	2018	The people in the media: The response to look news production	Master's Degree	Selçuk University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to explore individuals' trust in the media and their perceptions of media-generated fake news. By comparing trust levels between traditional and new media platforms, the research seeks to reveal media consumers' attitudes toward different news sources.	Media, fake news, trust, news, ideology	Turkish
61	False News	H. Kaynak	2024	Fake news in a post-true era: An analysis of the Israel-Palestine conflict	Master's Degree	Aksaray University	State University	Communication Sciences	This study aims to examine how fake news spreads rapidly and reaches large audiences through new media in the post-truth era. Using the BuzzSumo social media	Post-truth, fake news, new media, digital journalism, fact-checking platforms	Turkish

								analysis tool and Anadolu Agency's Teyit Hattı fact-checking platform, the study will analyze the dissemination dynamics of fake news regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict that began on October 7, 2023.		
62	False News	A.A. Maalım	2021	Comparative analysis of improving news trustworthiness in Kenya and Turkey in the wake of fake news in digital era	Master's Degree	Ankara University	State University	Journalism	This study examines the spread of fake news in the digital age and the role of fact-checkers in increasing news credibility. A comparative analysis of fact-checking platforms in Turkey (Teyit) and Kenya (AfricaCheck) is conducted to explore the identification of misinformation and transparency in digital media.	Fact-checkers, fake news, news credibility, social media, digital age	English
63	False News	G. Sezer Yelaldı	2021	Fake news literacy of social media user parents	Master's Degree	İstanbul Bilgi University	Private University	Journalism; Communication Sciences	This study aims to investigate the impact of the increasing spread of fake news on parents with the widespread use of the internet and social media. Additionally, it seeks to determine parents' levels of fake news literacy.	Fake news, misinformation, fake news literacy, parenting, fake news and parents	English
64	False News	S. Boğazlıyanlıoğlu	2021	Fake news awareness of Turkey's digital immigrants in post truth era	Master's Degree	Marmara University	State University	Journalism	This study aims to examine fake news awareness among digital immigrants in Turkey during the post-truth era and to determine whether there are significant generational differences in this awareness. The study explores the spread dynamics of fake news, the role of new media in this process, and digital immigrants' perceptions of fake news.	Fake news, post-truth, digital immigrants	Turkish
65	False News	O. Doğan	2020	The attitudes of social media users toward fake news through coronavirus pandemic; evidence from Istanbul	Master's Degree	İbn Haldun University	Private University	Journalism	This study aims to measure the misleading impact of fake news circulated on social media during the COVID-19 pandemic on social media users in Istanbul. It examines the extent to which fake news is remembered, how it is distinguished from real news, and the relationship between users' education levels and their tendency to believe in fake news.	Social media, fake news, coronavirus, COVID-19, fake news	Turkish

targeting migrants, infodemic, the role of fact-checking platforms, and perception management in digital environments. Within the framework of the "post-truth" concept, a notable focus has been placed on media literacy, user behavior, and critical thinking skills. Most of the studies employ qualitative methods, including content and discourse analysis, with platforms such as Twitter (X) and Instagram being prominent sources of data. Some theses also explore the structural causes of information disorder in traditional media.

Following 2019, there has been a noticeable increase in theses focusing on disinformation and misinformation, particularly in the context of the pandemic. Similarly, academic interest in fact-checking platforms has grown, with teyit.org emerging as the most frequently examined platform in this field. In the context of social media environments where information pollution is widespread, the influence of these platforms and users' perceptions of them have become significant topics of research.

An analysis of the distribution of theses by search terms reveals that the term "disinformation" appears in 40 out of the 65 theses, making it by far the most frequently used concept in the field. This prominence can be attributed to its increasing relevance in both academic and policy-making circles, especially after the enforcement of Turkey's Disinformation Law (Law No. 7418) in 2022. The widespread use of this term also reflects its central role in current media and political discourse.

"Fake news" ranks second with 15 theses, commonly associated with studies that explore media literacy, political polarization, and digital journalism. These theses often focus on the relationship between trust in media and the public's ability to distinguish between authentic and fabricated content.
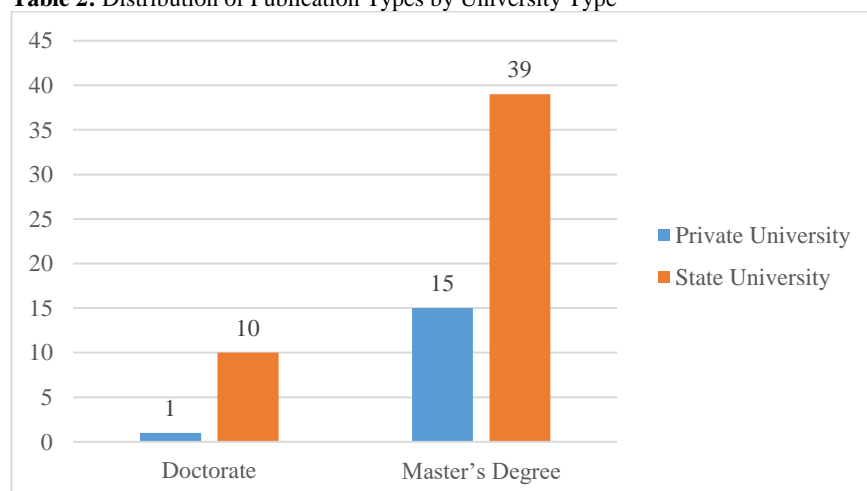
"Misinformation" is used in 9 theses, usually in the context of social media usage, health communication, and crisis events. Unlike disinformation, misinformation is typically analyzed from the perspective of unintentional spread and user behavior, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

"Fact-checking platforms" appear as a primary search term in 5 theses, with teyit.org being the most frequently examined platform. These theses evaluate the impact and credibility of verification mechanisms and their roles in combating false information in digital environments.
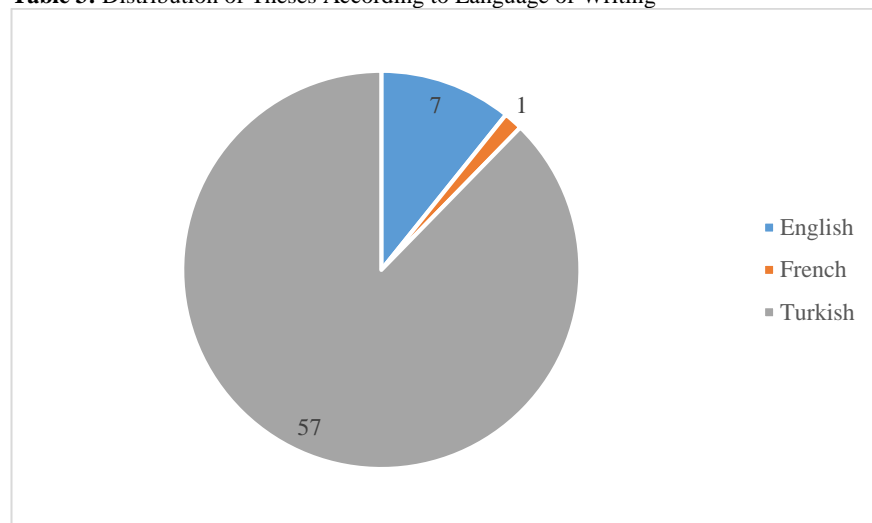
Lastly, the term "false news" was found in 5 theses. This term is used less frequently, often appearing in comparative or international studies, and is sometimes used interchangeably with "fake news," though some studies draw conceptual distinctions between them.

These variations in term usage highlight the evolving academic preferences shaped by global terminology, legal frameworks, and media practices.
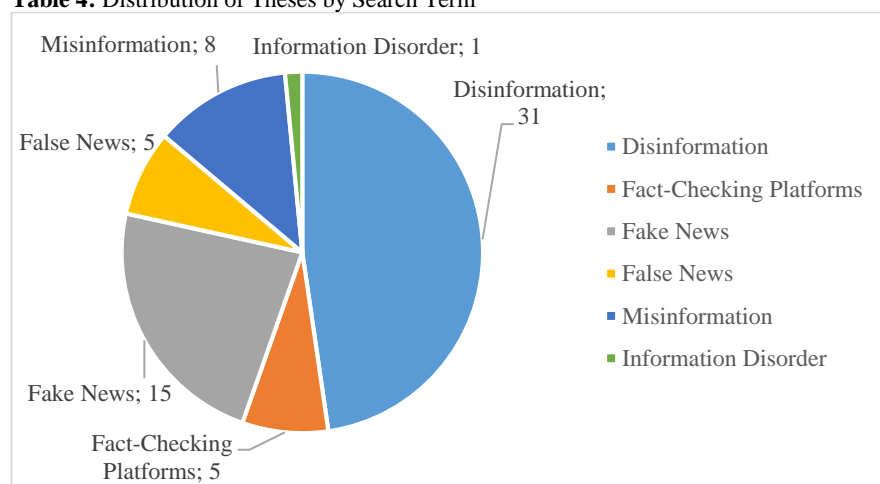
Table 2: Distribution of Publication Types by University Type

An analysis of the distribution of theses by type of publication and university type reveals that the majority of studies were conducted at public universities and at the master's level. While the number of theses produced at foundation (private) universities appears to be more limited, doctoral-level research constitutes a smaller proportion of the overall total.

Table 3: Distribution of Theses According to Language of Writing

An analysis of the language distribution of the theses shows that the vast majority were written in Turkish. Although most of the theses include English abstracts and keywords, the fact that full texts are predominantly in Turkish indicates a partial level of accessibility for the international academic community. This also suggests that the limited number of theses written entirely in English may pose a barrier to broader academic visibility and engagement in global scholarly discussions.

Table 4: Distribution of Theses by Search Term

An analysis of the distribution of theses by search terms reveals that the term "disinformation" appears most frequently, highlighting its prominence as a central concept in graduate-level research in Turkey. Out of the 65 theses analyzed, nearly half focused explicitly on disinformation, indicating that this term has become the dominant academic entry point for studying information-related issues. This can be attributed to its increasing use in public discourse, legal regulations (such as Turkey's 2022 disinformation law), and media narratives, which have likely influenced research agendas in the field.

It is followed by the term "fake news," which maintains a significant presence, especially in relation to studies exploring media literacy, digital journalism, and public trust in news. "Misinformation" also appears as a recurring term, often intersecting with studies on social media, post-truth discourse, and health communication. Meanwhile, "fact-checking platforms" and "false news" are less commonly used as primary terms, but tend to be addressed in conjunction with broader discussions on verification practices and media credibility.

The variation in term usage may reflect both conceptual distinctions in the literature and evolving academic preferences shaped by current events, policy developments, and international terminology trends.

CONCLUSION

This study conducted a bibliometric analysis of postgraduate theses available in the National Thesis Center database of the Council of Higher Education in Türkiye, aiming to uncover the academic interest in concepts such as information disorder, misinformation, disinformation, fact-checking platforms, and fake news. Covering the

years 2005–2024, the analysis revealed a significant increase in academic production on these topics, particularly in the last five years.

The findings show that these concepts have primarily been studied within the disciplines of communication, journalism, and public relations in Türkiye. Most of the theses were produced at state universities and at the master's level. The peak in academic interest during and after the pandemic indicates that the problems related to information pollution have become more visible with the acceleration of digitalization.

The results also highlight the serious impact of misinformation spread through social media platforms on areas such as social polarization, crisis management, and public health. In this context, themes such as the role of fact-checking platforms, media literacy, and user behavior have come to the forefront. Furthermore, the theses reflect that the discussions surrounding the concept of "post-truth" include not only technical but also ideological and cultural dimensions.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that academic studies on information disorder in Türkiye have gained considerable momentum over the years. With the advancement of digitalization, these topics have become more prominent within the social sciences literature. The thematic focus and methodological preferences observed in the theses provide meaningful insights into current research trends and indicate that the phenomenon of information disorder is being approached from both theoretical and societal perspectives in a multidimensional manner. Future studies could build upon this thesis-focused analysis by incorporating international databases and comparative bibliometric approaches to further contextualize Turkey's position within global research trends on information disorder.

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