



Historical Development of Logistics Literature in Turkey

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Extensive Summary

Introduction

According to Logistics Performance Index, Turkey is entered the highest valuation range from 3.42 to 5.00 points with 3.51 points in 2012 and ranked 27th. According to neighboring countries, Turkey is the only country that capable of this highest range. Although Turkey's convenient location, and one of the top 20 economies in the world, why does not Turkey have better range than 27th? This could be related to view point of logistics science in our country.

In this study, we aim to determine our country's academic perspective of logistics science, which has a growing importance, by content analysis method in national publication between the years of 1980-2011. According to that purpose, all scientific researches that studied in Turkey about "Logistics", are identified in YÖK Electronic Theses archive and local indexes. This obtained data's distribution is analyzed according to publishing years, universities and institutes, original languages, and key words, and also, research niches, subjects' trend of change is determined.

Data and Methodology

In this study, content analysis technique used for analyzing data. Çalışmamızda içerik analizi yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Academic studies which will be included in our study is organized as follows:

- Academic studies must be indexed in YOK Electronic Theses archive and ASOS Index.
- Academic studies must be addressed in Turkey
- Academic studies must be in field of logistics
- Academic studies must be published between the years of 1980-2011

Firstly, a preliminary study was made in YOK Electronic Theses archive, and keywords determined. After that, determined keywords searched in YOK Electronic Theses archive and ASOS, and finding studies coded in main topics.

Results

When we analyze the published academic studies between the terms of 1980-2011, there are 257 articles in ASOS, and 1506 thesis in YOK Electronic Theses archive.

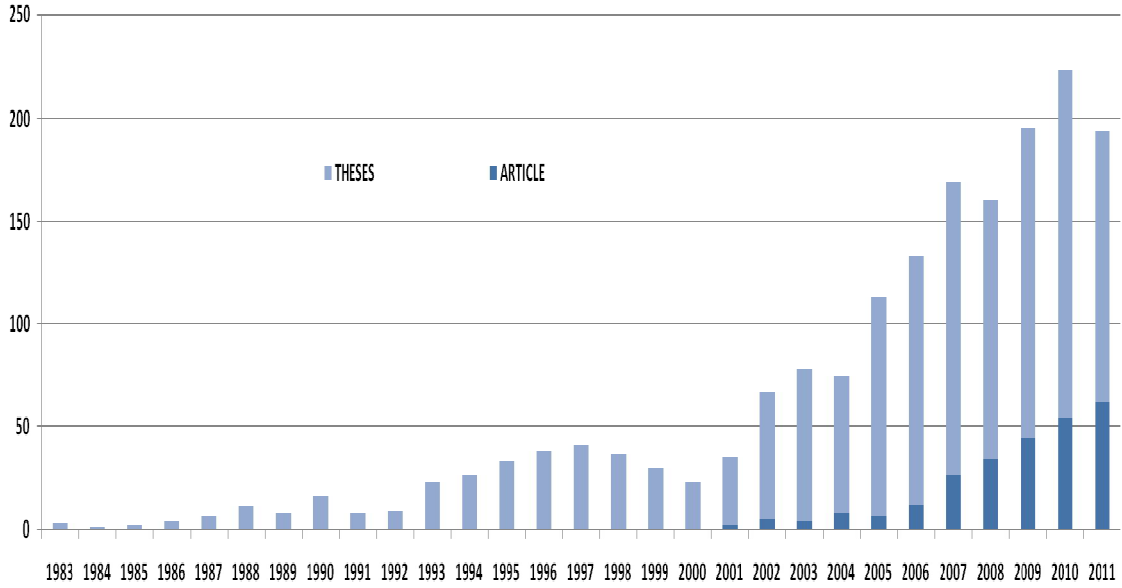


Figure 1: Academic Studies Distribution by Year

Conclusion

In our country, while the factors are existing that are necessary for the accepting logistics as a discipline (like educational institutions, professional associations, conferences, academic studies), the absence of an academic logistics journal is an important missing.

Logistics does not exist in associate professorship examination field in Turkey, for this reason, academics that want a career in logistics science, have to take the examination in different disciplines.

In some studies, logistics is seen as a sub-branch of marketing, rather than as a discipline. This is not an acceptable approach.

When we analyze the published academic studies, there is 257 article in ASOS, and 1506 thesis in YOK Electronic Theses archive, and there is an increasing momentum of academic studies distribution of years.

In academic studies, Dokuz Eylül University, which is the first university that offered a program that related to logistics in 1988, is in the first ranks.

When we analyze the published theses institutes, Institute of Science is first, Institute of Social Science is second, and Institute of Engineering and Sciences is third, and this is show us that in our country, there is a quantitative study tendency in logistics science, and as a result of quantitative trend, “Industrial and Industrial Engineering” is the most classified subject heading in YOK Electronic Theses archive.

In analyzing of the continuous process of logistics study areas, “inventory management” is the longest studied subject between the terms of 1987-2011, and after that area, “supply chain management” is coming between the terms of 2000-2011.

Also, on the basis of the number of academic studies “supply chain management” is the first, because of increasing importance of supply chain management with globalization, sectoral needs, and foreign trends in academic studies. Companies, emphasis on inventory management for improving their internal structures in first terms, but in global time, companies focus on supply chain management to make a difference between the supply chain networks.

According to Pareto analyze, we see that, the distribution of the study areas of 20% is not meet the 80% of the academic studies. This shows that, studies about logistics discipline in Turkey, is in stage of development.