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Research Article

Descriptive Document Analysis of Postgraduate Theses on Innovation Management

Saniye Haydaroğlu[a]

Abstract

Introduction: This study maps the landscape of postgraduate theses on innovation management in Turkey to identify who studies the topic, where and how it is approached, and which gaps persist. By offering a consolidated baseline on institutions, disciplines, language, and degree levels, it aims to inform future research agendas and curricular and policy decisions.

Method: A descriptive document analysis was conducted on 53 theses (41 master's; 12 doctoral) retrieved from the National Thesis Center of Higher Education Council up to December 31, 2024. Inclusion required the phrase "Innovation Management" in the title. Each thesis was coded for year, university type, institute, department, subject focus, degree level, advisor title, author gender, language, and page count. Findings were summarized using frequency distributions and simple cross-tabulations and presented via tables/figures to highlight temporal and institutional patterns.

Results or Findings: The volume of theses rose sharply, peaking in 2018–2019. Most were produced at state universities (84.9%) and Social Sciences Institutes (73.6%). Business Administration (39.6%) and Education Sciences (30.2%) dominated the disciplinary spread. Master's theses constituted 77.4% . Regarding language, 94.3% were in Turkish and no doctoral theses were in English, signaling limited international visibility at the highest degree level.

Discussion or Conclusion: The field exhibits a strong national focus and limited doctoral-level theoretical development. Future research should expand English-language outputs, employ advanced bibliometric techniques and mixed-methods, and encourage interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Keywords: innovation, innovation management, descriptive document analysis,

JEL Codes: I23; L20; M10; O32

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Araştırma Makalesi

Yenilik Yönetimi Üzerine Yapılmış Lisansüstü Tezlerin Betimsel Doküman Analizi

Saniye Haydaroğlu[a]

Öz

Giriş: Bu çalışma, Türkiye'de inovasyon yönetimi alanında yazılmış yüksek lisans tezlerini sistematik olarak haritalandırarak, konunun kimler tarafından, hangi kurumsal ve disipliner bağlamlarda ve hangi yöntemsel yaklaşımlarla ele alındığını ortaya koymakta; alanda süregelen boşlukları belirlemektedir. Elde edilen bulgular, kurum türü, disiplin, dil ve derece düzeyleri bakımından alanın mevcut görünümüne ilişkin bütüncül bir tablo sunmakta ve gelecekteki araştırmalar için karşılaştırmaya elverişli bir referans çerçevesi sağlamayı amaçlamaktadır.

Yöntem: 31 Aralık 2024'e kadar YÖK Ulusal Tez Merkezi'nden erişilen 53 tez (41 yüksek lisans, 12 doktora) üzerinde betimsel doküman analizi uygulanmıştır. Dahil edilme ölçütü, tez başlığında "Yenilik Yönetimi" ifadesinin yer almasıdır. Tezler; yıl, üniversite türü, enstitü, anabilim dalı, konu odağı, derece düzeyi, danışman unvanı, yazar cinsiyeti, dil ve sayfa sayısı değişkenleri bakımından kodlanmış; bulgular frekans–yüzde dağılımları ve basit çapraz tablolarla özetlenmiş, tablolar/şekillerle görselleştirilmiştir.

Sonuçlar ya da Bulgular: Tez sayısında belirgin bir artış gözlenmiş, zirve 2018–2019 yıllarında gerçekleşmiştir. Çalışmalar ağırlıkla devlet üniversitelerinde (%84,9) ve Sosyal Bilimler Enstitülerinde (%73,6) yoğunlaşmıştır. Disipliner dağılımda İşletme (%39,6) ve Eğitim Bilimleri (%30,2) öne çıkmıştır. Tezlerin %77,4'ü yüksek lisans düzeyindedir; %94,3'ü Türkçe yazılmış olup İngilizce doktora tezi bulunmamaktadır.

Tartışma ya da Yapılan Çıkarımlar: Alan, güçlü bir ulusal odak ve sınırlı doktora-düzeyi kuramsal derinlik sergilemektedir. Gelecek çalışmalarda İngilizce çalışmaların artırılması, gelişmiş bibliyometrik ve karma yöntem tasarımlarının kullanılması ve disiplinlerarası/uluslararası işbirliklerinin teşvik edilmesi önerilmektedir. Bu bulgular, ileride yapılacak araştırmalar için karşılaştırmaya elverişli bir referans çerçevesi sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: yenilik, yenilik yönetimi, betimsel içerik analizi

JEL Kodlar: I23; L20; M10; O32

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Introduction

Innovation management is a process that enables organizations to continually generate new ideas, implement them, and improve them to achieve their goals (Drucker, 1985; Tidd & Bessant, 2020). Organizations need to enhance their competitive edge, ensure ongoing development, and preserve market share (Schumpeter, 1934; OECD, 2018). This approach aims to strengthen companies' ability to adapt to changing conditions by promoting sustainability. Additionally, in today's increasingly globalized competitive environment, innovation plays a strategic role in differentiating products and services in the market and responding more swiftly to consumer needs (Porter, 1990; Çoban & Gümüş, 2022). Currently, innovation management is continually evolving and advancing, driven by digital transformation and global competition (Nambisan et al., 2017; Dereli, 2015).

Innovation management plays a vital role in a company's sustainable success. It helps increase competitive strength, adapt more quickly to market changes, and improve efficiency in internal processes, while also fostering organizational culture (Nonaka & Takeuchi, 1995; Ünlü & Aydoğan, 2015). In a world where technological advancements are accelerating, innovation management enables businesses to keep pace with this transformation. In this context, companies can achieve sustainable growth and remain competitive in both the short and long term through effective innovation management strategies (Kalay & Lynn, 2015; Aydın & Bekmezci, 2020).

In addition to the growing body of literature on innovation management, the importance of this concept in the context of global transformations is increasing daily. The rise of digital technologies, Industry 4.0, and the rapid spread of artificial intelligence are fundamentally changing how organizations design and implement their innovation strategies. For example, integrating big data and machine learning into production processes has created new opportunities for companies to stand out in highly competitive markets. Furthermore, the link between digital transformation and green innovation has been confirmed in numerous studies. Digital processes promote sustainable innovative practices and enhance environmental performance (Huang & Lau, 2024). Similarly, the sustainability agenda has expanded innovation management beyond the private sector, guiding public institutions, civil society organizations, and universities to adopt practices aligned with green growth and social responsibility principles (Jiang, 2024).

From a Turkish perspective, the increasing number of universities and the expanding postgraduate education system have provided fertile ground for research in this field. For example, a study focusing on high-tech companies in Turkey revealed that the impact of firms' innovation strategies on business performance is significant (Köylüoğlu & Doğan, 2021). However, while innovation management is widely studied across various disciplines in developed economies, Turkey's contributions to this field are limited mainly to the national context, and few studies have gained international recognition. This situation highlights the importance of revealing national trends and documenting how innovation management has evolved in different socio-economic environments.

Descriptive document analysis is a method that aims to systematically examine written materials produced on a specific subject and present findings that describe the current situation (Bowen, 2009; Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2021). This method serves as an essential tool for revealing trends, strengths, and weaknesses by enabling researchers to classify and analyse the documents under examination according to specific criteria. Therefore, it is a suitable method for evaluating academic studies on innovation management from a more holistic perspective.

This study aims to analyze postgraduate theses on innovation management through a descriptive document analysis method. Its goal is to identify overall trends in the field, highlight existing contributions, pinpoint gaps, make recommendations, and support future research. Within this scope, a total of 53 master's and doctoral theses available until December 31, 2024, which include the phrase 'Innovation Management' in their titles and are listed in the Higher Education Council National Thesis Centre database, were reviewed. The theses were evaluated based on different parameters, the data was quantified and presented with graphs, and the findings were summarized using descriptive statistics.

Conceptual Framework

Innovation Management

Innovation is the process of change and transformation aimed at improving the current situation or creating new value (OECD/Eurostat, 2018; Crossan & Apaydin, 2010). It includes not only scientific and technological advancements but also enhancements in business processes, marketing strategies, and organizational structures (Tidd & Bessant, 2020). As a result, innovation is considered a vital factor for businesses to gain a competitive edge, boost customer satisfaction, and achieve sustainability (Dodgson, et al., 2014; Güven & Demirtaş, 2023).

Innovation can take many forms and occur in different areas. Product innovation involves creating new products or improving existing ones. Process innovation focuses on reorganizing internal procedures to increase efficiency or reduce costs. Market innovation relates to changes in how products and services are delivered to customers. Organizational innovation includes improvements in work methods, organizational structure, and culture (OECD, 2005; Oğuztürk, 2003; Gunday et al., 2011). These types of innovation are essential for businesses to adapt to changing conditions and remain competitive over the long term.

Innovation management is a strategic approach that enables organizations to effectively utilize their internal and external resources to generate new ideas, turn those ideas into action, and improve existing processes (Eren et al., 2015; Tidd & Bessant, 2020). Research on the core principles, processes, and tools of innovation management helps businesses remain competitive and grow.

Several factors influence the success of innovation management. Leadership support, organizational culture, employee participation, motivation, resource allocation, flexibility, risk-taking capacity, and investment in technology are key determinants of success (Bay, et al., 2018; Öner & İşcan, 2021). Additionally, external environmental factors such as economic, political, and technological conditions also directly affect innovation management.

Leadership and organizational culture are essential in innovation management. Leaders promote change by motivating employees to think creatively, while an innovative organizational culture supports idea sharing and risk-taking (Nonaka & Takeuchi, 1995; Öner & İşcan, 2021). Therefore, the right mix of leadership and culture directly impacts the success of innovation management.

Innovation management is closely connected to a company's competitive strategies. Developing innovative products and services helps businesses stand out in the market. In this context, recognizing and implementing innovative strategies enables companies to achieve a sustainable competitive advantage (Kasap, 2020; Porter, 1990). In a globalized world, businesses must compete both locally and internationally. Therefore, innovation management

is crucial for navigating different cultures and international collaborations (İleri & Horasan, 2014; Dereli, 2015).

Innovation management is closely linked to human resources strategies. Effective HR policies are essential for fostering an innovative culture (Pelenk, 2020). Likewise, marketing strategies are also driven by innovation management because differentiation in marketing activities and customer focus are enhanced through innovation (Ünlü & Aydoğan, 2015).

Innovation management and risk management must be addressed together. Since innovations inherently involve uncertainties, risks should be identified, analyzed, and managed proactively (Emhan, 2010). Additionally, during times of crisis, innovation management becomes a crucial factor for businesses to survive and preserve their competitive advantage (Özden, et al., 2017).

Knowledge management is also a key part of innovation management. The gathering, storing, analyzing, and sharing of knowledge are crucial for the success of innovation processes (Kutanis & Mesci, 2013). Additionally, collaboration among actors from different disciplines speeds up and broadens the innovation process (Oğan, 2022).

The relationship between strategic management and innovation is also emphasised in the literature. Innovation processes must be integrated into planning and implementation processes to achieve strategic goals (Aydın & Bekmezci, 2020). An organisational culture that supports innovation, where employees can share their ideas and an environment is created that is open to change, is critical for innovative success (Yıldırım & Karabey, 2016).

Finally, innovation management is also crucial for sustainability. Supporting the efficient use of natural resources and environmental awareness with innovative solutions Supporting the efficient use of natural resources and environmental awareness with innovative solutions helps organizations reduce their ecological footprint and develop more sustainable operational practices. (Yıldız Ç. & Sezen, 2015). Innovation management practices in public institutions also significantly contribute to improving service quality and resource efficiency (Gökçe, 2015).

Descriptive Document Analysis

The growing accessibility of scientific information, mainly due to the rise of digital databases, allows researchers to systematically analyze various written documents and detect trends in specific fields. In this context, descriptive document analysis is a qualitative research method that supports the planned and structured examination of documents related to a particular topic (Bowen, 2009). Document analysis involves gathering data from written sources such as books, articles, reports, theses, and official documents and assessing this data based on its content (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2021).

Descriptive document analysis allows researchers to reinterpret previously gathered data and identify trends and gaps. This approach provides a snapshot of the current state of the relevant field, especially through the systematic review of postgraduate theses, academic articles, or reports on a specific topic (Bowen, 2009; O'Leary, 2017). In this context, document analysis is also beneficial in terms of time and cost, as the researcher uses existing data without the need for new data collection.

The descriptive document analysis method, while similar to content analysis, concentrates more on defining the current situation and presenting findings with descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage (Krippendorff, 2018). This makes the method

especially useful in research aimed at assessing research productivity in a field, the distribution of topics, trends in studies, or the contributions of institutions.

Recent studies in various fields indicate that descriptive document analysis is widely used. For example, in educational sciences, this method is frequently preferred in examining published theses and articles in terms of subject, method, and trends (Bowen, 2009; Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2021; O'Leary, 2017). Similarly, in the social sciences, this method is employed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the field, discern trends in the existing literature, and illuminate future research directions.

Among recent examples of using descriptive document analysis in Turkey, we see Yıldırır and Kızmaz (2024), who examined 156 studies on "cognitive structures" in the context of science education, and studies that evaluated 82 articles emerging after Covid-19 in the field of educational technologies through content analysis in terms of methodological and subject trends (Yıldız, 2022). Furthermore, studies on scale development in early childhood education have yielded significant findings regarding diversity in subject, sample, and publication type, as observed in research conducted between 2018 and 2023 (Sezer & Yaşar, 2024).

In this study, the descriptive document analysis method was employed to examine postgraduate theses titled 'innovation management'. The theses were categorized based on predefined categories, and the results were presented using frequencies and percentages. This approach revealed the current state in the field and established a guiding framework for future research.

Method

The literatüre review reveals that numerous studies have been conducted on innovation management across various disciplines (Goyal & Pitt, 2007; Wagner, 2008; Bucherer et al.,2012; Taşkın, 2014; Bozkurt, 2015; Dereli, 2015; Kalay & Lynn, 2015; Nambisan et al., 2017; Demirel & Savaş, 2017; Akyüz & Örücü, 2018; Doğancılı, 2018; Yirci & Aydoğar, 2020; Öner & İşcan, 2021; Kaya & Peker, 2021; Öner & İşcan, 2022). However, the limited number of studies examining postgraduate theses on innovation management using descriptive document analysis methods was the starting point for this research. In this study, postgraduate theses on innovation management were systematically examined to reveal current trends, gaps, and orientations, thereby contributing to the literature in the field.

This study employed the descriptive document analysis method to examine the current state of postgraduate theses on innovation management. Document analysis is a qualitative research approach that systematically reviews written sources and assesses the data collected using descriptive statistics (Bowen, 2009; Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2021).

The research data was collected from the National Thesis Centre database of Higher Education Council, including a total of 53 postgraduate theses (41 master's and 12 doctoral) with the phrase 'Innovation Management' in their titles, accessible until December 31, 2024. The theses were analyzed based on parameters such as years of preparation, universities and types (state or foundation), institutes, departments, subjects, thesis types, advisor titles, author genders, languages of writing, and page counts. To enhance methodological rigor, a preliminary coding trial was conducted on a subset of five theses to refine category definitions and ensure clarity. An academic expert in the field then reviewed the coding scheme to strengthen content validity. Although the coding process was carried out by a single researcher, the use of a detailed coding guide and expert review contributed to the reliability of the coding procedure.

Following the finalization of the coding scheme, the data were entered into Microsoft Excel, where frequency and percentage distributions were calculated. The results were visualized through tables and figures to make temporal, institutional, and disciplinary patterns more evident. Presenting the findings descriptively enabled a comprehensive portrayal of the field while maintaining transparency in the analytical steps (Karasar, 2020).

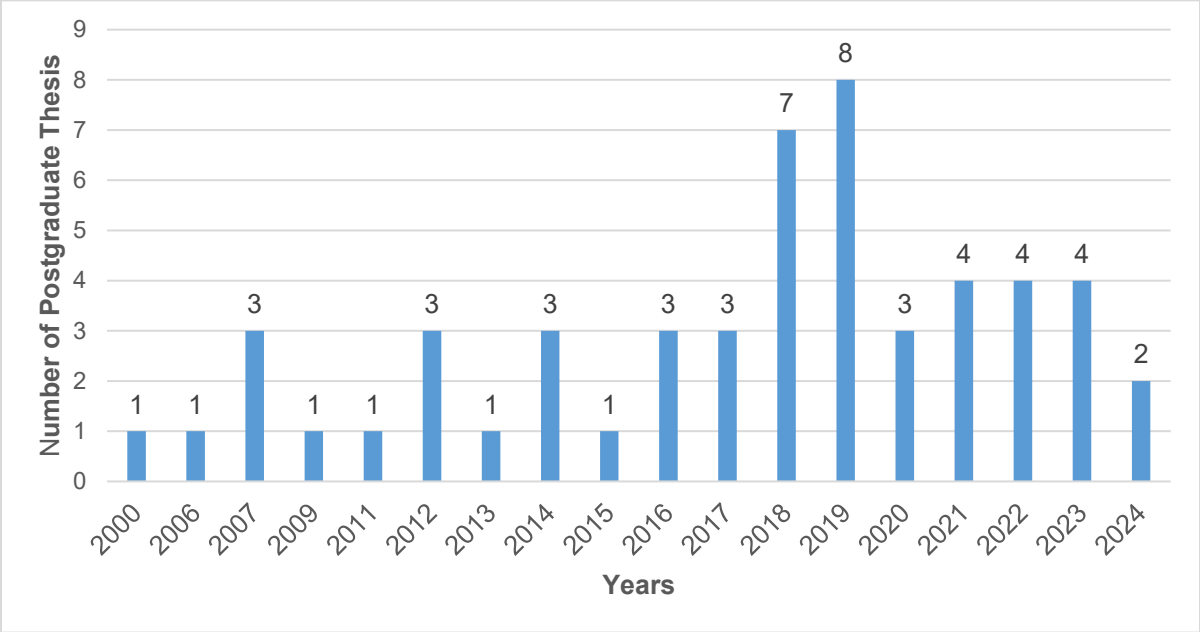
Despite its strengths, this study has several limitations. First, only theses with the exact phrase "innovation management" in their titles were included, which may have excluded relevant studies that addressed the innovation management conceptually but used different terminology. Second, the analysis relied solely on descriptive statistics and did not employ advanced bibliometric techniques (e.g., citation analysis, co-word networks, and collaboration mapping), which could have provided more profound insights into the structure and evolution of the field. Third, the study was limited to theses produced in Turkey; therefore, the results cannot be generalized to global trends in innovation management research. Nevertheless, by systematically mapping existing postgraduate theses, this study provides a foundational overview of national research tendencies and offers a reference point for future studies employing more comprehensive analytical approaches.

Findings

This section highlights the trends identified from the data collected during the research. The theses analyzed within the study have been categorized based on various variables, and the distributions are visualized through graphs. The findings go beyond mere numbers, including percentages and explanatory comments. Therefore, the development of postgraduate theses on innovation management over the years, their variations by institutions and fields, and overall trends are presented in a more straightforward way.

Figure 1

Thesis Distribution by Year of Completion



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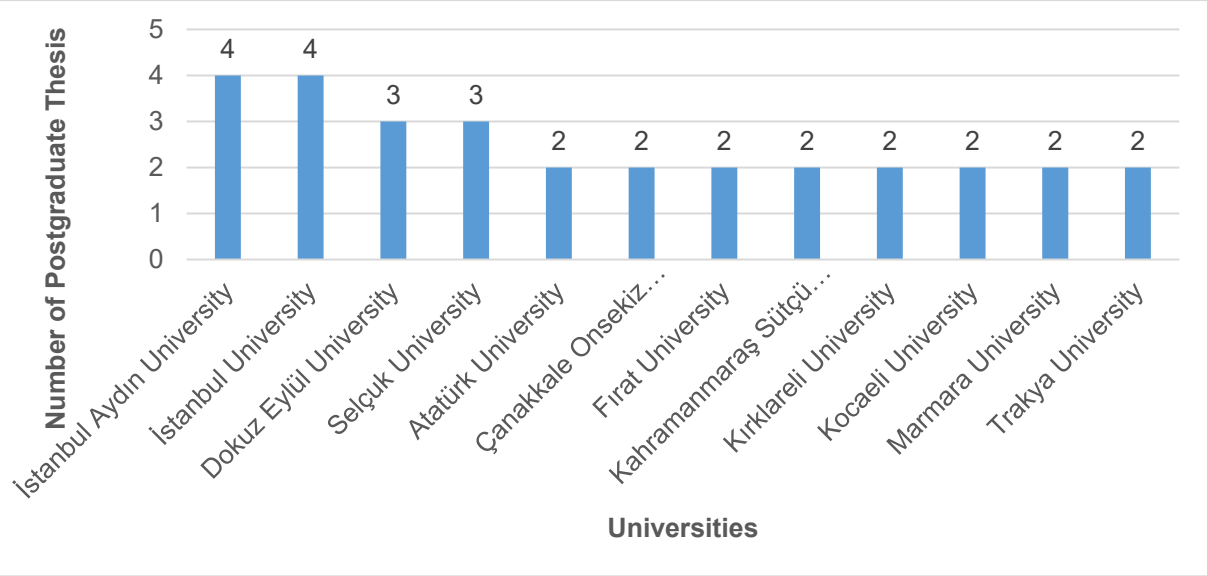
Innovation management studies, which started with a single thesis in 2000, experienced a notable increase, especially in 2018 (13.2 %) and 2019 (15.1 %). The total number of theses

peaked in 2019 with eight theses. The decline in 2020 (5.7%) is due to disruptions in education and training caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. An increase was seen again in 2021 (7.5%) and the following years, showing ongoing academic interest.

Figure 2

Distribution of Theses Based on The Universities Where They Were Published



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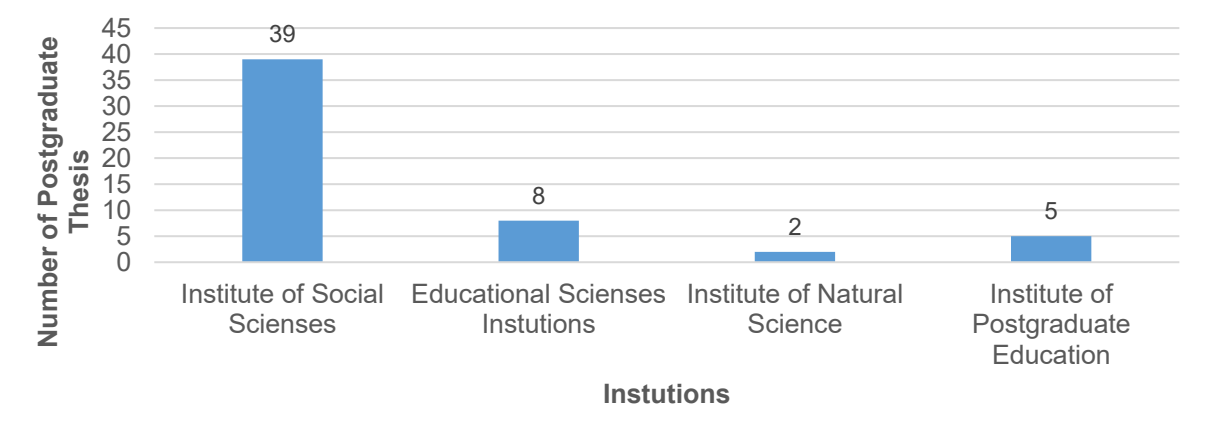
The highest number of theses were completed at Istanbul Aydın University and Istanbul University, each accounting for 7.5%. Dokuz Eylül University and Selçuk University follow with 5.7%. This distribution can be linked to the larger research capabilities and student populations at universities in major cities.

Figure 3

Distribution of Theses by The Institutions Where They Were Published



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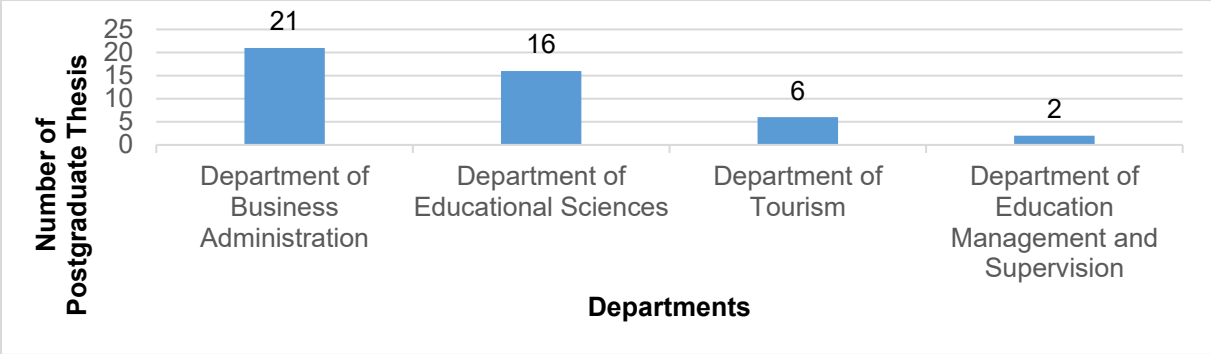
73.6% of the theses were prepared at the Institute of Social Sciences, 15.1% at the Institute of Educational Sciences, 5.7% at the Institute of Natural Sciences, and 5.7% at the Institute of Postgraduate Education. The results indicate that innovation management theses are

mainly concentrated in the social sciences. The Institute of Social Sciences is followed by the Institute of Educational Sciences, the Institute of Natural Sciences, and the Institute of Postgraduate Education.

Figure 4

Distribution of Theses by Department



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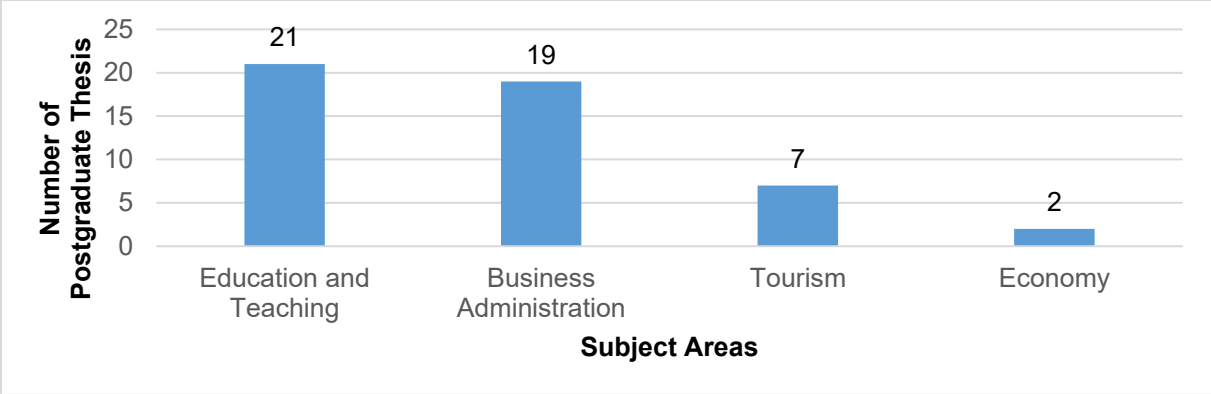
The distribution of these writings on innovation management across the main fields of study indicates that innovation management falls within four primary disciplines. Business Administration accounts for the most significant portion, with 39.6% of theses, followed by Education Sciences at 30.2%, Tourism at 13.2%, and Education Management and Supervision at 7.5%. The dominance of Business Administration in innovation management research aligns with existing literature. This is then followed by Educational Sciences, which emphasizes the application of innovation management in schools and among educators.

Figure 5

Distribution of Theses Across Subject Areas



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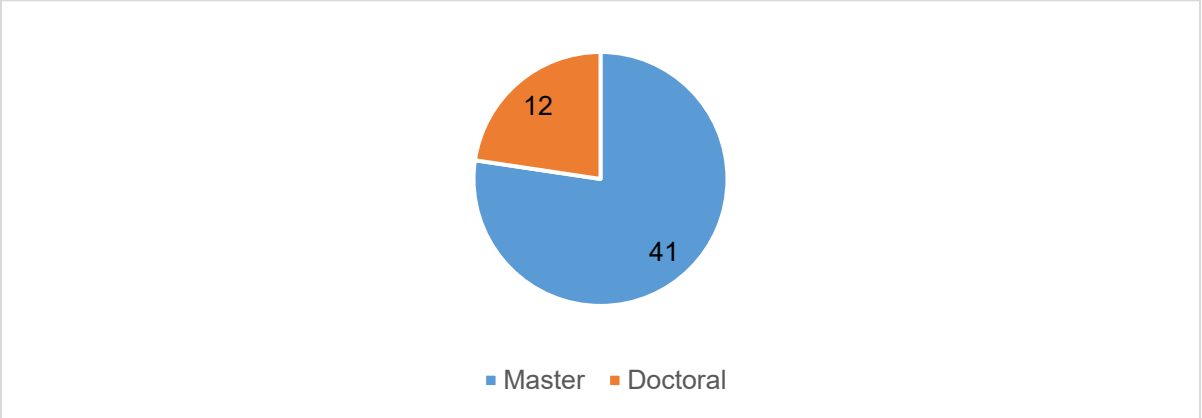
The most common topics covered in theses were Education and Teaching (39.6%) and Business Administration (35.8%). Tourism accounted for 13.2%, and Economics for 3.8%. This distribution shows that innovation management is mainly studied from the perspectives of education and business administration. When this graph is viewed alongside the previous one, it indicates that some studies in the Business Administration department also include the subject of education and teaching.

Figure 6

Distribution of Theses by Publication Type



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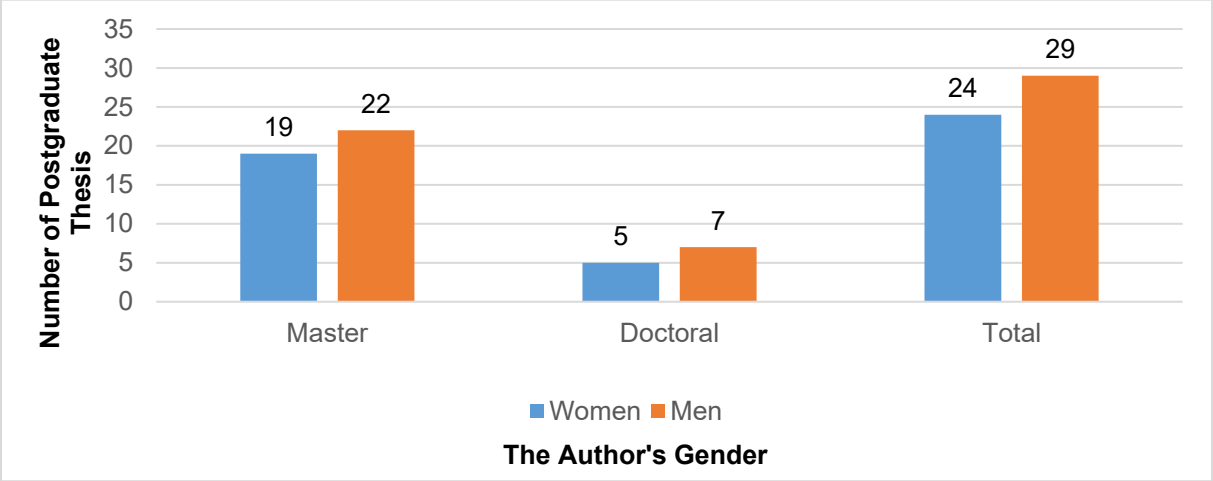
77.4% of theses are master's theses, while 22.6% are doctoral theses. The high percentage of master's theses shows that doctoral studies are still quite limited. One reason could be that students often do not continue to doctoral studies after finishing their master's. Additionally, the fact that entry requirements for doctoral programs are more rigorous than those for master's degrees, along with the longer duration of the programs, explains this gap.

Figure 7

Distribution of Theses by Authors' Gender.



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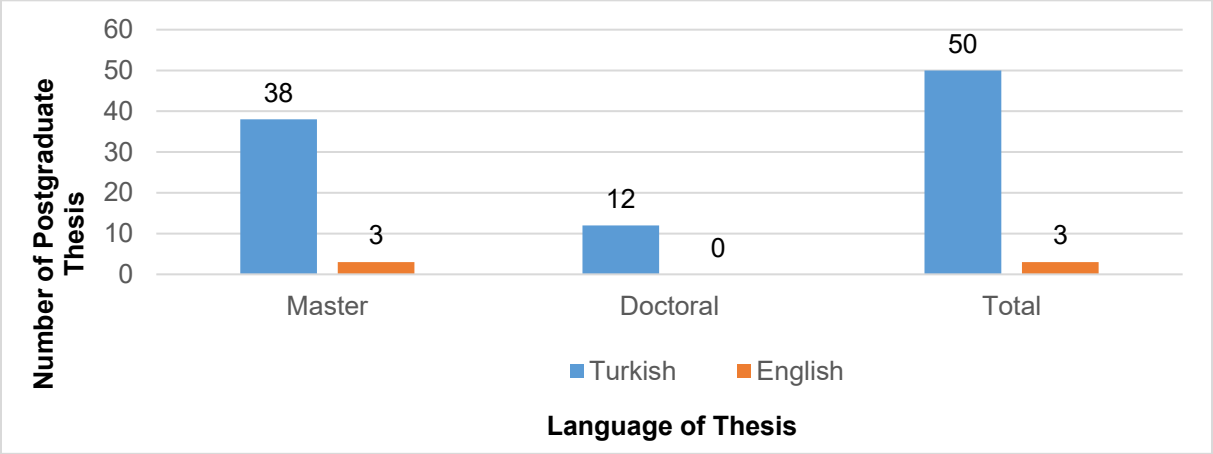
54.7% of researchers are male, while 45.3% are female. This distribution shows that men are slightly more represented, but overall there is a balanced gender distribution in terms of thesis types.

Figure 8

Distribution of Theses by Publication Language



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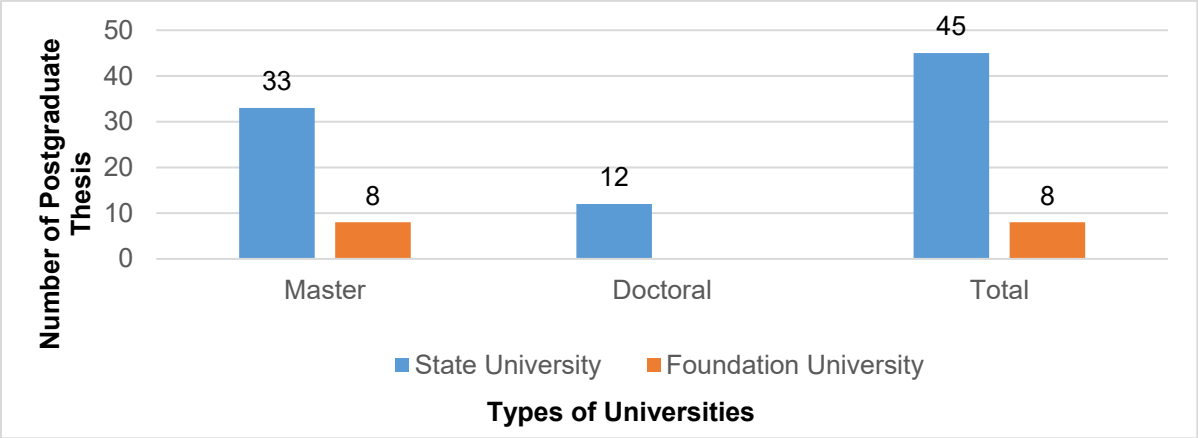
94.3% of theses were prepared in Turkish, and 5.7% in English. The dominance of Turkish indicates that most studies remained at the national level, with limited international visibility. There are no doctoral-level theses written in English. The predominance of Turkish is clear at both thesis levels.

Figure 9

Distribution of Theses by University Type



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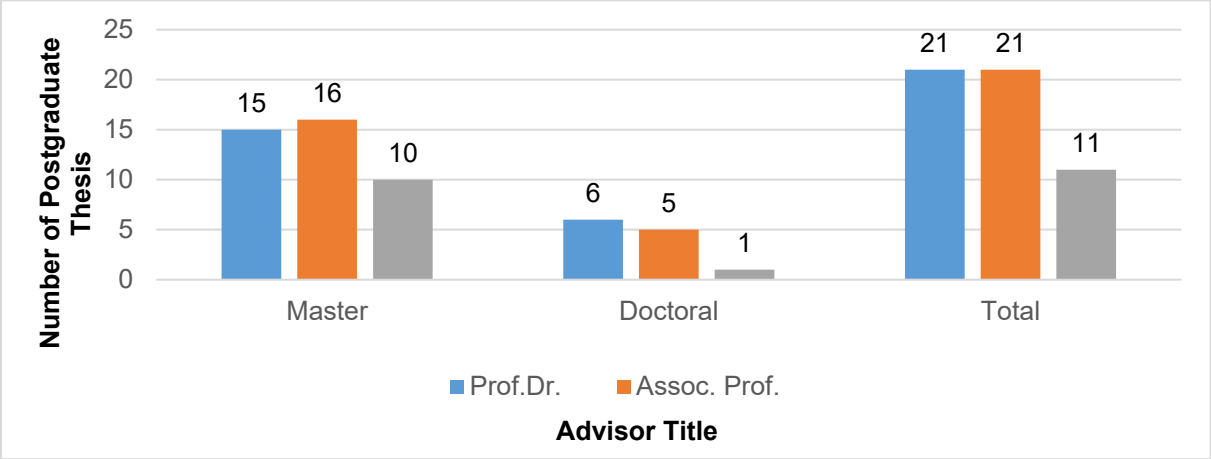
When examining the types of universities where theses are published, it is clear that state universities carry more weight than foundation universities. 84.9% of theses are produced at state universities, compared to 15.1% at foundation universities. This shows that state universities have a significant impact on academic output. The primary factor is that there are more state universities than foundation universities. The yearly growth in the number of universities within the scope of university planning for each province, along with the relatively smaller number of foundation universities despite their growth, shifts the balance in favor of state universities.

Figure 10

Distribution of Theses by Advisor Title



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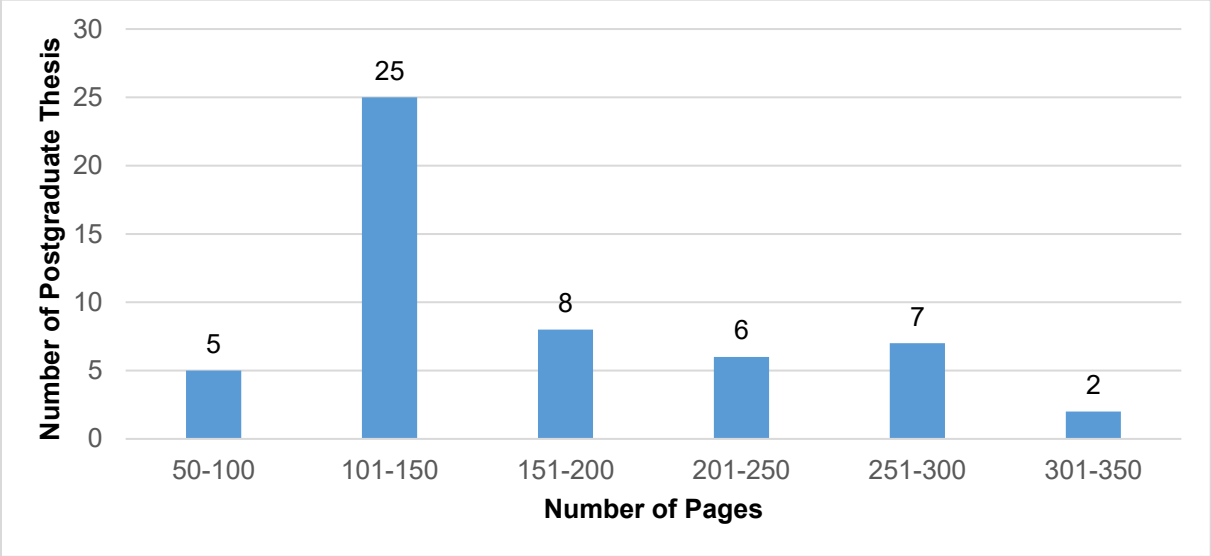
In master's theses, 39.0% of advisors hold the title of Associate Professor, 36.6% hold the title of Professor, and 24.4% hold the title of Assistant Professor. In doctoral theses, 50.0% of advisors hold the title of Professor, 41.7% hold the title of Associate Professor, and 8.3% hold the title of Assistant Professor. This finding indicates that experienced academics are more likely to be assigned to advanced research projects.

Figure 11

Distribution of Theses Based on Page Count



Note. This figure created by the author using Microsoft Excel

In the categorization of theses on innovation management by page count, the highest number of pages was found in theses between 101 and 150 pages. There were 25 theses in this page range.

Discussion

The findings of this study show that the number of postgraduate theses on innovation management has grown over the years. Notably, the peak number of theses in 2018 and 2019 suggests that academic interest in innovation and innovation management in Turkey is consistently rising. Similarly, while Çoban and Gümüş (2022) emphasize that innovation activities in businesses have become more intense in recent years, the OECD (2018) also states that innovation has become a strategic element at both the national and corporate levels.

The prominence of Istanbul Aydın University and Istanbul University among institutions shows that universities in large cities have more research opportunities, and their larger student populations are reflected in output. Hotamışlı and Erem's (2014) bibliometric studies in accounting also demonstrate that universities in big cities have a more significant role in academic publications.

The fact that most theses are completed at state universities (84.9%) highlights the key role of public universities in academic output. This finding aligns with the results found by Gökçe (2015) in his research on innovation practices in the public sector. Additionally, Altbach and Salmi (2011) also emphasize that public universities are the primary actors in scientific production, especially in developing countries.

The concentration of theses in the fields of business administration (39.6%) and education sciences (30.2%) shows that innovation management is a key issue for both the private sector and educational institutions. In this context, the focus on innovation management in business aligns with the literature's view of innovation as a strategic necessity and a competitive advantage for companies (OECD/Eurostat, 2018; Crossan & Apaydin, 2010; Schumpeter, 1934). The prominence of innovation in educational sciences reflects studies emphasizing the importance of applying innovation and change management in schools and among teachers (Fullan, 2007; Hargreaves, 2003; Rogers, 2003; Karadağ & Özdemir, 2021). Oğan's (2022) research supports this focus by showing the link between teachers' innovation management skills and their organizational commitment. Likewise, Tidd and Bessant (2020) stress that innovation management should extend beyond technology and be integrated into organizational structures and educational processes.

Innovation management is theoretically defined as a multidimensional and cross-disciplinary field shaped by organizational learning, knowledge creation, strategic capabilities, and open innovation perspectives (Nonaka, 1994; Baregheh et al.,, 2009; Crossan & Apaydın, 2010; Aysan, 2025). These theoretical foundations explain why innovation management research and consequently, postgraduate theses are distributed across diverse disciplines, such as business administration, education, and the social sciences. The increasing focus on organizational structures, human capital, and institutional culture in innovation management also aligns with the observed emphasis in Turkish postgraduate theses. Therefore, the distribution of thesis topics and disciplines in the present findings aligns with theoretical expectations, supporting the view that innovation management develops within complex organizational and societal contexts, rather than being limited to technological innovation alone.

Considering the language used in the theses, the fact that 94.3 percent are written in Turkish indicates that most studies remain primarily at the national level. However, the literature emphasizes that the international aspect of innovation management is becoming increasingly significant (Dereli, 2015; Nambisan et al., 2017). This situation underlines the need to boost the proportion of English in future research. Crossan and Apaydin (2010) also highlight

a similar point, noting that innovation should be addressed within a multidimensional framework on a global scale.

Another noteworthy finding is the relatively low number of doctoral-level studies. In global academic practice, doctoral theses generally form the basis for theoretical developments in innovation management, while master's theses focus more on practical applications. The observed imbalance in Turkey suggests that the field is still in the process of development in terms of theoretical contributions. Indeed, recent research shows that doctoral programmes worldwide are becoming increasingly linked to industry, but are still underrepresented compared to other innovation research areas (Compagnucci & Spigarelli, 2025). Similarly, analyses of doctoral theses conducted in the Turkish context show a marked increase, particularly in the social sciences, since 2022. However, it is emphasised that these studies are primarily based on empirical and quantitative approaches, with limited comprehensive theoretical or interdisciplinary frameworks (Kirişçi, 2025). Encouraging more doctoral research that combines empirical findings with theoretical perspectives could strengthen the theoretical foundations of the field by increasing the alignment of Turkish studies with global academic trends.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, this study has identified the main trends in postgraduate theses on innovation management in Turkey and outlined the current state of the research area. The findings show that although academic interest in the field has increased, existing research remains largely national in scope, doctoral-level studies are limited, and international contributions are relatively weak. These results indicate that future research should be more comprehensive and diversified, not only in quantity but also in theoretical depth, methodological rigor, and international engagement. By providing a systematic overview of the current landscape, this study contributes to the national literature and offers a solid foundation for future research aimed at strengthening and expanding the scholarly work in innovation management.

For future research, it is recommended that the scope be expanded through keyword searches and thesis abstracts; more detailed studies should be carried out using citation analyses and bibliometric network techniques (Zupic & Čater, 2015; Moed, 2005).

Previous studies emphasize that producing scientific work in widely used international languages increases global visibility and supports the integration of national research into the international knowledge network (Nambisan et al., 2017; Altbach & Salmi, 2011). In this context, increasing the number of studies prepared in English will improve international visibility and help integrate Turkish research into the global literature.

It is also believed that the variety of studies across different disciplines (such as engineering, health, and public administration) will grow, aiding the development of the field (Tidd & Bessant, 2020).

International comparisons show that countries with well-established national innovation systems, like the United States, Germany, and Scandinavian nations, produce considerably more doctoral research in innovation management, supported by strong institutional capacity and coordinated research policies (Fagerberg & Srholec, 2008; Lundvall, 2007; Edquist, 2010). In contrast, the smaller number of doctoral theses in Turkey indicates that the field is still developing in terms of theoretical depth and institutional support. OECD (2019) also highlights that countries with higher doctoral research outputs generally have stronger funding

mechanisms, international mobility programs, and structured doctoral curricula. Therefore, enhancing doctoral education policies in Turkey such as increasing research funding, encouraging international collaborations, and improving the quality assurance of doctoral programs can help expand innovation management research.

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