

## THE CORRUPTION TRENDS WITHIN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS REVIEW

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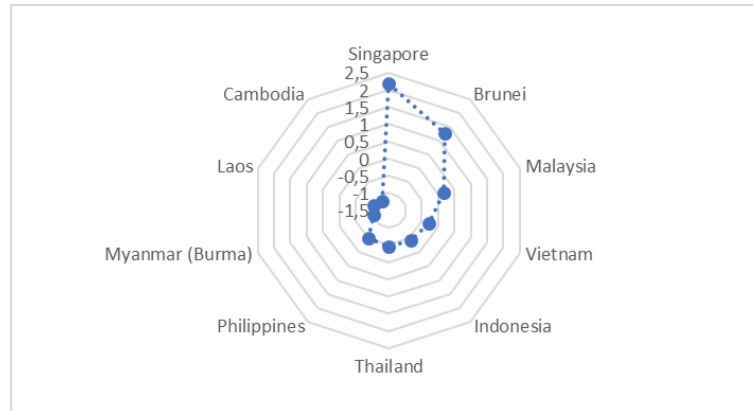
**Abstract:** This article gives a quantitative examination of corruption trends in one of the ASEAN countries. The study focused on 5 research questions. Information is collected to check the above research questions and a network map is applied. This study aims to examine the publication of documents based on the most influential articles, co-authorship of the country, co-occurrence of all keywords, most cited sources, and co-citation of cited authors. Keywords are categorized into several clusters. The type of analysis used is bibliometric analysis. This study took the latest data of 823 articles from the scientific database, namely SCOPUS from 2000-2024, and network analysis using VOSviewer software. This study found that The most influential article in the study of Corruption in ASEAN Countries is the article entitled "Institutional causes, macroeconomic symptoms: Volatility, crises, and growth" with a number of citations of 785 times. Indonesia is the ASEAN state that contributes the most to research related to Corruption with a total of 279 documents. The main field of study keywords that are most often used in Corruption research in ASEAN Countries are Corruption. The journal source that publishes the most research on corruption is the Journal of Financial Crime with a total of 621 citations. Based on the co-citation of the cited author, Shliefier is the author with the most citations. This research has certain limitations and is concluded by providing implications and suggestions for future studies. Finally, this study will provide more insight for researchers, academics, and others to find research gaps in the field of corruption.

**Keywords:** bibliometric analysis, corruption, trends, ASEAN countries

### INTRODUCTION

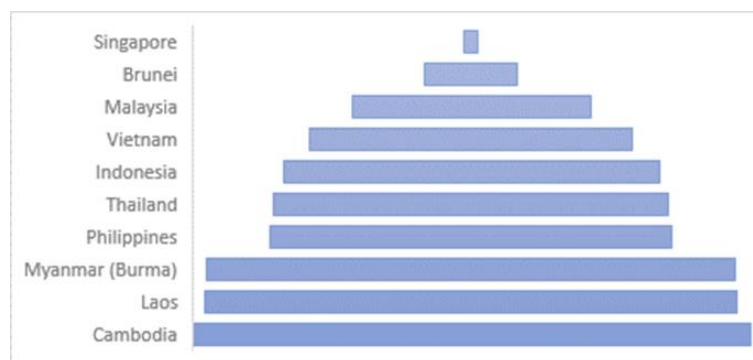
The corruption index in ASEAN countries as a whole is still below the global average. Figure 1 presents the control of corruption in ASEAN countries with an average value of -0.135, while the global average is -0.04.

Even though there are 3 ASEAN countries that have scores above the global average (Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia), 7 other ASEAN countries are still below the global average. Moreover, in the global ranking of ASEAN countries, only four countries are ranked in the top 100. If the control of the corruption index is not improved, it could have a negative impact on the country. Consequently, corruption has a detrimental effect on investment, competition, government effectiveness, and the economic development of a nation (Bui et al., 2021).



**Figure 1. Control of Corruption**

Globally, the corruption ranking of the majority of ASEAN countries is still above the top 100. Only four countries are in the top 100, namely Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. In line with this, Singapore ranks among the cleanest and most corrupt countries, with Brunei and Malaysia having the highest CPI scores (Quoc Bui et al., 2021). It is feared that this performance will have an impact on cooperation between ASEAN countries in the economy and investment, considering that ASEAN countries have trade agreements with several developed countries such as Japan, Australia, Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea . Moreover, a 2013 global public survey revealed that 50% of ASEAN citizens believe corruption has increased, with only a third stating government efforts are effective (Thach & Ngoc, 2021). Anti-corruption authorities often struggle with operational independence and limited resources. Transparency International's 2014 report suggests an ambiguous relationship between economic freedom and corruption (Thach & Ngoc, 2021).



**Figure 2. Global Rank of Control of Corruption**

The economic system is severely impacted by corruption, which promotes technological adoption and inefficiencies (Ikhsan & Amri, 2024). This condition is urgent for countries that have high levels of corruption. For this reason, research on corruption is still an important issue in business, economic, and financial fields. Several researchers also analysis several issues of corruption which were linked to several other issues such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) (Bertot et al., 2010; Jin & Moon, 2015), environmental issue (Boubaker et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2022; Sahoo et al., 2023), globalization (Asongu, 2014; Park & Khanoi, 2017; Quah, 2001), as well as e-governance (Bertot et al., 2010; Bhuiyan, 2011). Therefore, it is interesting to analyze the issue of corruption from a literature review perspective by analyzing previous studies. By going over the previously published literature, we may keep an eye on the

investigations' limitations, try to address issues that were missed but were found by reading the literature, and choose the course of future research (Hazaea et al., 2022).

This study aims to analyze literature studies on the issue of corruption using a bibliometric analysis approach. The scope of research is limited to ASEAN countries only. The reason is because control of corruption in ASEAN is still below the global average as explained above. ASEAN, established in 1967, comprises 10 member states, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. It has since expanded to include Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia (Quoc Bui et al., 2021). Similar research to this study was carried out by (Quoc Bui et al., 2021). The study examines the growth trend of corruption research publications by ASEAN scholars over the past two decades, the international collaboration network, the most published papers, the most influential papers, and the most popular research topics in this field. Even though a corruption study has been carried out in ASEAN countries using a bibliometric approach, this study has differences. First, this study looks at it from different points of view, such as bibliometric coupling of documents, co-authorship based on country, co-occurrence (all keywords), citation based on source, co-citation based on cite author. Second, the data used is more updated and the period is longer than prior study from 2000-2024 period.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Researchers from several disciplines and fields have studied and evaluated corruption, making it a multidisciplinary subject (Bahoo et al., 2020). Corruption can be defined as the misuse of one's position or authority for personal gain, meanwhile in terms of psychology, humans' primal tendency is to pursue their own interests (Thach & Ngoc, 2021). This research reviews research related to corruption using bibliometrics in ASEAN countries. The following is a summary of previous research according to typical literature, research subject, topic, analysis approach, and objective.

**Table 1. Summary of Previous Study**

Typical Literature	Research Subject	Topic and Analysis Approach	Objective
Current Research	ASEAN	Corruption Bibliometric Analysis	to analyze literature studies on the issue of corruption using a bibliometric analysis approach
(Branet & Hategan, 2024)	Nordic European countries	Auditing and Corruption in Public Sector	to identify trends and approaches in public sector auditing to combat corruption and prevent fraud.
(Quoc Bui et al., 2021)	ASEAN	Corruption Bibliometric Analysis	to explore the development and richness of corruption research conducted by scholars in an ASEAN country.
(Al-Faryan, 2024)	Global	Agency Theory, Corporate governance, corruption Literature Review	by reviewing research on agency theory, governance, and corruption, the project seeks to reexamine the idea of ownership and control.
(Saxena & Kumar, 2023)	Global	Money Laundering Control Bibliometric Analysis	to offer the Journal of Money Laundering and Control (JMLC) a bibliometric analysis

## METHODS

This study conducted a literature review on corruption using bibliometrics (Al-Faryan, 2024; Branet & Hategan, 2024; Quoc Bui et al., 2021) which focuses on the scope of ASEAN countries. Data is taken only from the Scopus database (Sayuti & Aprianto, 2023; Tubarad et al., 2022), because of its dependability, Scopus is utilized as a bibliometric data source for several research reviews, assessments of scientific policies, research landscape studies, and institution rankings (Tubarad et al., 2022) and Scopus is a popular academic database that offers reputable journal articles, references, and publications for research and development (Mohanty et al., 2023).

Data was taken from the Scopus database using the keyword "corruption". Based on the search data, the results show that there are ASEAN countries that are not detected, namely Laos. Apart from that, Timor Leste is also not included in the scope of the research because the country joined ASEAN in 2022. Data was taken from 2000-2024, more updated and longer than the

previous study (Quoc Bui et al., 2021). The subject areas of this research are social science, economics, econometrics, finance, business, and management.

Data taken from the Scopus database, then processed using VOS Viewer software (Ramirez et al., 2022; Sayuti & Aprianto, 2023). In figure 3, a flowchart of the study is presented summarizing the topic, limitation & scope, keywords, and amount of data used. The flowchart adopted by (Bosi et al., 2022; Sayuti & Aprianto, 2023; Tubarad et al., 2022).

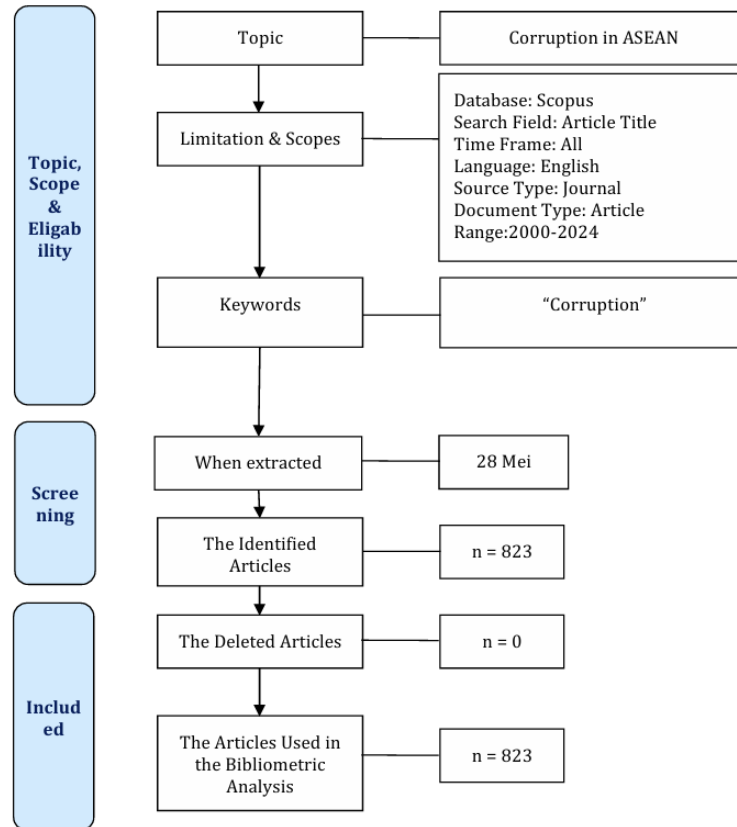


Figure 3. The Flowcharts of the Study

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This study uses several articles which are accredited by Scopus related to Corruption in 2000-May 2024. Based on the results of the search on Scopus, there are 47,079 documents with the keyword "corruption", then keyword filters are carried out, especially related to corruption, economic growth, governance, crime, Asia, good governance, anti-corruption, and fraud, so that the total documents used are 823 documents. Based on figure 4 below, it shows that the sources of documents collected are taken from 8 types of documents consisting of 521 articles, 153 book chapters, 58 reviews, 54 conference papers, 30 books, 4 retracted, and 3 editorial.

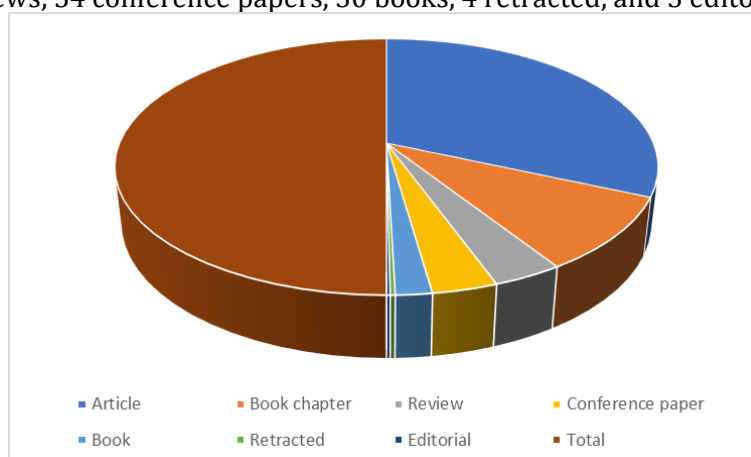


Figure 4. Research document

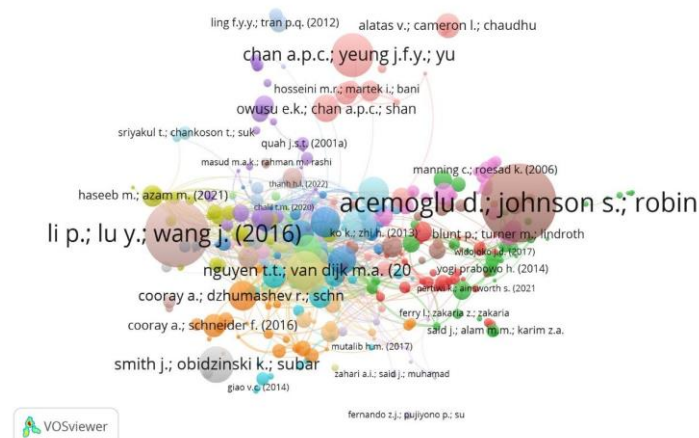
### Analysis based on bibliographic coupling of document

Based on the bibliographic coupling of documents with the number of documents processed as many as 823 documents in figure 2 below, it can be seen that there are 3 most frequently cited article documents. The most frequently cited article is the research conducted by Acemoglu et al., (2003) with a total of 785 citations, while the second is an article conducted by Li et al., (2016) and Li et al., (2005) with a total of 573 citations. Furthermore, the third article that is most often cited is a study conducted by Chan et al., (2011) with a total of 245 citations. Description More details can be seen in Table 1 below.

**Table 2. Most influential article on Corruption**

Rank	Author	Year	Title	Citation
1	Acemoglu et al.,	2003	Institutional causes, macroeconomic symptoms: Volatility, crises, and growth.	785
2	Li et al.,	2005	Institutionalized corruption and privilege in China's socialist market economy: A general equilibrium analysis	573
		2016	Does flattening the government improve economic performance? Evidence from China.	
3	Chan et al.,	2011	Empirical study of risk assessment and allocation of public-private partnership projects in China.	245

Source: data processed by Vosviewer



**Figure 5. Results of bibliographic coupling of documents**

### Analysis based on co-authorship of country

Based on the analysis of co-authorship of countries with the number of data processed by 34 countries in figure 6 below, it can be seen that there are 5 ASEAN countries listed at the top of the list that conduct research related to Corruption. Indonesia is the country that conducts the most research related to Corruption with 279 documents, followed by Malaysia with 215 documents, Vietnam 113 documents, Singapore 101 documents and finally Thailand with 57 documents. The results of the bibliographic coupling of countries in this study are shown in figure 6 below.





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