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Research on the Core Issues and International Frontier Trends in Mediation Discourse over the Past Decade

—A Bibliometric Analysis Based on the WOS Database

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Abstract: Based on the Web of Science (WOS) database, this study employs the CiteSpace literature analysis tool to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the literature on international mediation discourse. By creating visualizations of hot keywords, contribution maps, and keyword clustering spectra, the study examines the applications of mediation discourse in different fields, its structural characteristics, the roles and identity construction of mediators, and integrates interdisciplinary research perspectives from linguistics, psychology, and sociology. The findings indicate that the hotspots in international mediation discourse research are concentrated in political communication, mediation strategies, and the impact of social media. Research topics have evolved from basic communication and discourse analysis to more complex social and psychological phenomena. The research frontiers are trending towards applications in education, social movements, gender equality, mental health, and changes in social media, including the integration of socio-cultural theory with mediation discourse and the relationship between theory of mind and mediation discourse. These trends highlight the latest advancements in international mediation discourse research and its importance for social harmony, while also proposing future research directions.

Keywords: Mediation Discourse; Core Issues; International Frontier Trends

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题目: 近十年调解话语研究的核心议题及国际前沿动向—基于 WOS 数据库的文献计量分析

摘要: 基于 Web of Science (WOS) 数据库, 运用 CiteSpace 文献分析工具, 对国际调解话语研究的文献进行了计量分析。通过绘制热点关键词、贡献图和关键词聚类图谱, 分析调解话语在不同领域的应用、结构特征、调解员的角色及身份建构, 结合语言学、心理学、社会学等跨学科研究视角。研究表明, 国际调解话语研究热点集中在政治沟通、调解策略、社交媒体影响等方面。研究主题从基础沟通和话语分析, 逐渐发展到更复杂的社会和心理现象。研究前沿趋向于教育、社会运动、性别平等、心理健康和社交媒体变化中的应用, 包括社会文化理论与调解话语的结合、心智理论与调解话语的关系等, 揭示了国际调解话语研究的最新进展及其对社会和谐的重要性并对未来研究方向提出了展望。

关键词: 调解话语; 核心议题; 国际前沿动向

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1. Introduction

The introduction and application of mediation mechanisms are important in promoting social harmony and global peace in the context of globalization, as well as resolving various conflicts and disputes. Against this backdrop, mediation discourse, as an emerging field of linguistic research, has increasingly attracted academic attention. Its research focuses on the use, management, and adjustment strategies of discourse during mediation processes, as well as how effective linguistic behaviors can achieve conflict resolution and consensus-building. The expansion of mediation discourse research is not limited to the analysis of linguistic forms but also emphasizes how discourse practices leverage social platforms and technological tools to generate broader social impacts. As an effective dispute resolution approach, mediation mechanisms and their discourse practices are widely employed internationally in diverse domains, including cross-cultural communication, social conflict mediation, family dispute resolution, and teacher-student relationship coordination, becoming a crucial component in fostering social harmony and cultural exchange. This research direction aligns with China's cultural values of resolving barriers through civilizational exchanges,

mitigating conflicts through mutual learning, and rejecting superiority through inclusiveness. It also resonates with the traditional Chinese value of “harmony above all,” reflecting China’s stance on advocating civilizational exchanges and mutual learning on the international stage.

With the acceleration of globalization, research on mediation discourse has garnered increasing academic attention and emerged as a prominent research focus in recent years. Matamoros-Fernandez (2017) introduced the concept of “platformed racism,” examining how social media platforms address racial discrimination through design, technological support, and governance mechanisms. This study highlights the challenges posed by social platforms’ “neutrality” rhetoric in practical governance, offering new theoretical perspectives for understanding online discourse and providing theoretical support for effectively mediating dialogues while addressing cultural and identity differences. Through analyzing language practices among Greek-background adolescents on Facebook, the study proposed the concept of “networked multilingualism,” emphasizing how digital platforms influence language usage behaviors. Androutsopoulos (2015) further explored dialogue structures and strategies in mediation discourse research, while Weidman et al. (2014) investigated the role of discourse in cultural and political contexts, revealing how it bridges identity construction, power expression, and political authority dynamics. Ke Xianbing (2022) explored the convergence of court mediation discourse and further emphasized the necessity of mediation. Zhao and Ran (2024), in analyzing mediation of mother-in-law and daughter-in-law conflicts, examined how mediators mitigate the responsibility for offensive behaviors through the “interpretation on behalf of others” strategy, particularly within the cultural context of China, where mediators rationalize the mother-in-law’s offensive behavior by leveraging cultural norms such as filial piety and the principle of “harmony above all” to mediate conflicts and promote harmony. From the research findings on mediation discourse, it is evident that mediation discourse studies have gradually garnered attention in academia, especially in the fields of legal linguistics and systemic functional linguistics. Yu Yang, Ye Bin, and Shi Jinchuan (2025) argue that mediators must coordinate the legitimacy of legal norms with the acceptability of moral values during mediation, ensuring that mediation discourse gains dual recognition from both parties and the public, thereby laying the foundation for reaching consensus. In recent years, mediation discourse research has begun to adopt interdisciplinary perspectives, integrating theories from psychology, sociology, and other disciplines to explore linguistic behaviors and their cultural contexts during mediation processes. However, there remains a lack of systematic organization and in-depth analysis regarding the overall development trends and core issues of mediation discourse.

2. Research Design

2.1 Research Question

This study aims to address the following questions: (1) What is the current status, overall context, and developmental trends of international mediation discourse research? (2) What are the core issues and cutting-edge developments in international mediation discourse research? (3) What insights can be drawn from relevant research and practices in China?

To answer these questions, this study employs a systematic literature review and bibliometric analysis of 1,247 English-language academic articles published between 1990 and 2025.

2.2 Data Sources and Research Methods

The data in this study were sourced from the Core Collection of the WOS database, restricted to the SSCI and SCI Extended Core databases. The search included the keyword “mediation discourse” for the period 2014 – 2024, with literature types limited to “articles or literature reviews,” yielding a total of 601 relevant valid publications. The CiteSpace 6.3.1 literature analysis tool was employed to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the retrieved literature. By examining publication trends, author co-occurrence patterns, international collaborations, keyword clustering, and trending keywords, this study provides an overview of the development and cutting-edge trends in international mediation discourse research from 2014 to 2024.

3. Development Trends in Research on International Mediation Discourse

3.1 Distribution of publication time and volume

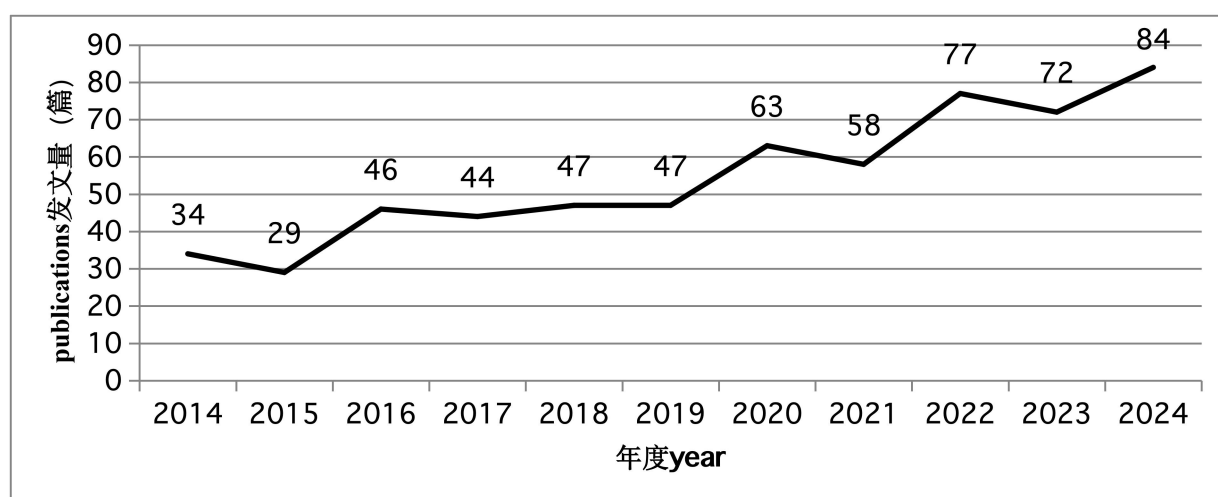


Figure 1 Trends in publication output from 2014 to 2024

Figure 1 presents the publication trend chart of international mediation discourse research from 2014 to 2024. The data reveals that this field has undergone a steady developmental phase over the past decade. The first stage (2014-2015) there are 34 and 29 publications respectively. From 2016 to 2019, the output began to rise, reaching 46 papers in 2016 and 47 in 2018. The third stage commenced in 2019, with annual publications consistently exceeding 70 over the subsequent three years. The annual publication trends indicate that international academia’s research on mediation discourse has experienced a plateau period followed by rapid growth, currently entering a stable upward trajectory.

3.2 Distribution of Research Institutions and Core Authors



Figure 2 Author co-occurrence graph

In the CiteSpace functionality and parameter section, select ‘Author’ and ‘Institution’ under the ‘Node Type’ tab. Running the analysis generates a collaborative publication network knowledge graph of authors and institutions, as shown in Figure 2. In the collaboration network, ‘node size represents the number of published papers by authors, institutions, or countries/regions’ (Li Jie & Chen Chaomei, 2016), with connecting lines indicating collaborative relationships between nodes. The search results show that the top 10 research institutions with the highest publication counts are: University of California System (12 papers), University of London (10 papers), University of California, Irvine; University of Oslo (7 papers); Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Australian National University; Cardiff University; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS); Hong Kong Polytechnic University; National University of Singapore; and State University System of Florida (4 papers).

The chart reveals that Amenta, Edwin, Van Dijkta, Hayes AF, Vygostky LS, Foucault Michel, Halliday Mak, Preacher KJ, Chouliaraki L, and Foucault M display the largest font sizes and thickest typefaces, occupying a prominent position in the network — indicating their significance as key contributors to discourse mediation research. The connections between authors represent collaborative relationships; notably, collaborations are evident between Hodge, Jenette, and Krause, Gabrie. However, overall, the field has relatively few research collaborators.

3.3 Co-cited papers (top 10)

Order number	Publication year	Paper Author and Title
1	2017	Hayes AF, 2017, INTRODUCTION TO MEDIATION, V0, P0
2	2020	Gu CL, 2020, PERSPECT STUD TRANSL, V28, P406, DOI 10.1080/0907676X.2020.1717558
3	2018	Gu CL, 2018, DISCOURSE CONTEXT ME, V24, P137, DOI 10.1016/j.dcm.2018.03.007
4	2018	Wang BH, 2018, PERSPECT STUD TRANSL, V26, P246, DOI 10.1080/0907676X.2017.1395468
5	2019	Hair JF, 2019, EUR BUS REV, V31, P2, DOI 10.1108/EBR-11-2018-0203
6	2014	Kidd J, 2014, MUSEUMS IN THE NEW MEDIASCAPE: TRANSMEDIA, V0, P0
7	2014	Halliday MAK, 2014, INTRO FUNCTIONAL GRA, V0, P0
8	2018	Li T, 2018, DISCOURSE CONTEXT ME, V25, P106, DOI 10.1016/j.dcm.2018.04.003
9	2019	Chen L, 2019, J MASS COMMUN Q, V96, P173, DOI 10.1177/1077699018754908
10	2022	Hair JF, 2022, A PRIMER ON PARTIAL LEAST SQUARES STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING (PLS-SEM), V0, P0

Table 1 Cited papers (top 10)

表 1 前 10 共被引论文

The top 10 most cited research list reveals that studies on international mediation discourse demonstrate interdisciplinary integration and methodological diversity. Hayes AF's (2017) work in *Introduction to Mediation* remains the most cited study, providing a solid theoretical foundation for mediation discourse analysis. His research particularly highlights statistical methods for modeling mediation effects and mediating variables, reflecting the growing demand for quantitative research approaches in social sciences and psychology. In parallel, Gu CL (2018,2020) explores how culture, language, and context influence mediation discourse, emphasizing its application in cross-cultural and cross-linguistic environments. Mediation discourse transcends linguistic dimensions, being profoundly shaped by social, cultural, and political factors. Wang BH (2018) and Li T (2018) further examine the importance of mediation discourse in cross-cultural communication through translation studies and contextual analysis, revealing complex interaction patterns such as media mediation and audience responses in communication science. Hair JF's (2019,2022) research on structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) demonstrates increasing adoption of quantitative methods in mediation discourse analysis, particularly in communication science and psychology,

where precise models enable quantification of variable relationships during mediation processes. The evolving landscape of mediation discourse research exhibits characteristics of interdisciplinary integration, combined quantitative and qualitative methodologies, as well as globalized and technologized development trends.

3.4 Highly Cited Journals

order number	order number	central value	Cited journals
1	69	0.14	Discourse & Society
2	64	0.18	Journal of Pragmatics
3	49	0.3	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
4	46	0.03	New Media & Society
5	43	0.05	Frontiers in Psychology
6	36	0.06	Journal of Communication
7	35	0.11	American Sociological Review
8	33	0.07	American Journal of Sociology
9	32	0.3	Annual Review of Anthropology
10	32	0.09	American Psychologist

Table 2 Highly cited journals (top 10)

表 2 高被引期刊（前 10）

Highly cited journals reflect the influence of academic achievements and indicate the research focus within specific fields. As shown in Table 2, *Discourse & Society* ranks highest with 69 cited papers on related topics; this journal, primarily focused on the relationship between discourse, language use, and society, is published in the United States. *The Journal of Pragmatics* follows with 64 citations. Most journals receiving over 20 citations originate from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland, and are predominantly English-language publications. Their main research topics in discourse mediation center on discourse power and social relations, with some journals examining how discourse functions as a tool of power to shape social structures and group dynamics across diverse social contexts.

In terms of the countries that published the literature, the United States leads by a wide margin with 133 articles, becoming the country with the most publications in the field of mediation discourse research. The United Kingdom follows with 90 articles. China ranks third with 79 articles. Research on mediation discourse in China is also gradually increasing, highlighting the importance of this field in Asian countries. Australia ranks fourth with 48 articles, demonstrating relatively active research in this area and contributing to global mediation discourse studies. Germany ranks fifth with 32 articles. The sixth to tenth places are occupied by France, Sweden, Spain, Italy, and Canada, respectively.

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4. Research on International Mediation Discourse and Core Issues & Content Landscape

4.1 Analysis of Core Issues in International Mediation Discourse Research Centered on Keywords

Analyzing high-frequency keywords from 601 research articles helps us grasp the overall research themes, while examining keyword frequency and node size in the network graph to identify key research focuses and hot topics. Figure 3 reveals significant nodes in mediation discourse studies including discourse analysis, mediation, language, politics, education, attitudes, and social media. These keywords collectively form distinct research clusters centered around mediation discourse, discourse analysis, and language. The political cluster explores political discourse, communication strategies, and mediation approaches in political processes, focusing on how political narratives influence public opinion, policymaking, and conflict resolution. The mediation cluster examines mediation as a communication strategy, emphasizing its role in conflict resolution, fostering understanding, and building consensus. Studies delve into mediation techniques, procedural frameworks, and cross-cultural applications. The social media cluster investigates how digital platforms shape mediation discourse, analyzing their impact on public discourse, social movements, and interpersonal interactions. The Discourse Analysis cluster examines the application of discourse analysis methods in mediation discourse research, focusing on analyzing and interpreting discourse patterns, strategies, and their functions in social interactions. The Discourse cluster explores discourse construction, practice, and its role in shaping social realities and individual identities. The Language cluster investigates language's role in mediation processes, including information delivery mechanisms, communication effectiveness, and mediation strategies across cultural and linguistic contexts. The Education cluster analyzes mediation discourse in educational settings, exploring how pedagogical language influences learning processes, educational policies, and communication strategies in practice. The Attitudes cluster investigates how individual and group attitudes are formed and transformed through discourse, along with their impact on mediation processes. The Impact cluster examines the long-term effects of mediation discourse on individuals, communities, and society, including its role in driving social change, influencing public policies, and shaping social structures.

Through these clusters and keywords, it is evident that the research focus in mediation discourse studies centers on political communication, mediation strategies, the impact of social media, discourse analysis methods, the role of language in mediation, mediation discourse in the educational field, the formation and

evolution of attitudes, and the social impact of mediation discourse. These focal points reflect the breadth and depth of mediation discourse research at both theoretical and practical levels.

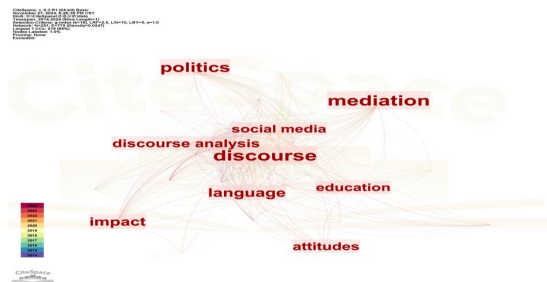


Figure 3 Map of Keyword Co-occurrence

4.2 Content Map of International Mediation Discourse Research

When conducting visual analysis using CiteSpace, the quality of clustering results is evaluated through two key metrics: Modularity (abbreviated as Q-value) and Silhouette (abbreviated as S-value). The Q-value ranges from 0 to 1; a value exceeding 0.3 indicates statistically significant clustering results. For the S-value, a value greater than 0.7 signifies efficient and persuasive clustering, while a value above 0.5 suggests reasonable clustering outcomes. In Figure 3, both the Q-value and S-value reach acceptable levels, demonstrating sound and high-quality clustering performance. The keyword clustering map exported from the CiteSpace interface reveals multiple nodes and connected regions, forming nine distinct clusters: #0 Sociocultural Theory, #1 Theory of Mind, #2 Sociocultural Theory, #3 Narrative Review, #4 Discourse Analysis, #5 Disordered Eating Attitudes, #6 Learning Organization, #7 Mediation, #8 Social Media, and #9 Popular Culture — reflecting the diverse developmental directions within this field. Among these, the application of sociocultural theory in mediation discourse is particularly significant, as it examines how cultural context and linguistic interactions influence the mediation process, especially in shaping behavioral and communication patterns. The Theory of Mind focuses on how individuals comprehend others' mental states and adjust their own behaviors to optimize mediation strategies. Relevant research emphasizes that understanding others' emotions and intentions facilitates effective communication. The "Narrative Review" cluster summarizes the theoretical frameworks and methodological trends in mediation discourse through retrospective studies, highlighting key achievements and future directions in the field. Discourse analysis, as a core methodology, examines how linguistic structures and context affect mediation, aiding in the identification of power dynamics and their impact on conflict resolution.

Furthermore, the clustering of disordered eating attitudes reflects the application of mediation discourse in mental health fields, particularly in addressing eating disorder issues. The study explores how discourse mediation can modify unhealthy eating behaviors to facilitate psychological recovery. The learning organization clustering focuses on how mediation discourse promotes knowledge sharing and member interaction within organizations, enhancing organizational learning and innovation capabilities. Mediation itself constitutes another significant cluster, with research directly examining language usage during mediation processes and its applications in legal, business, and related domains. Social media clustering

investigates the characteristics of discourse dissemination on social platforms and the formation of public opinion, exploring how these platforms can mediate social conflicts and foster public communication and consensus-building.

Finally, the popular culture clustering analysis examines how discourses in cultural products such as films and television shape public perceptions of conflict and mediation. These clusters reflect the multidimensional evolution of mediation discourse research, encompassing theoretical analysis and practical applications across cultural theory, mental health, social media, organizational management, and other fields, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature and promising prospects of mediation discourse studies.

4.3 Analysis of Research Development Trends Centered on the Time Axis

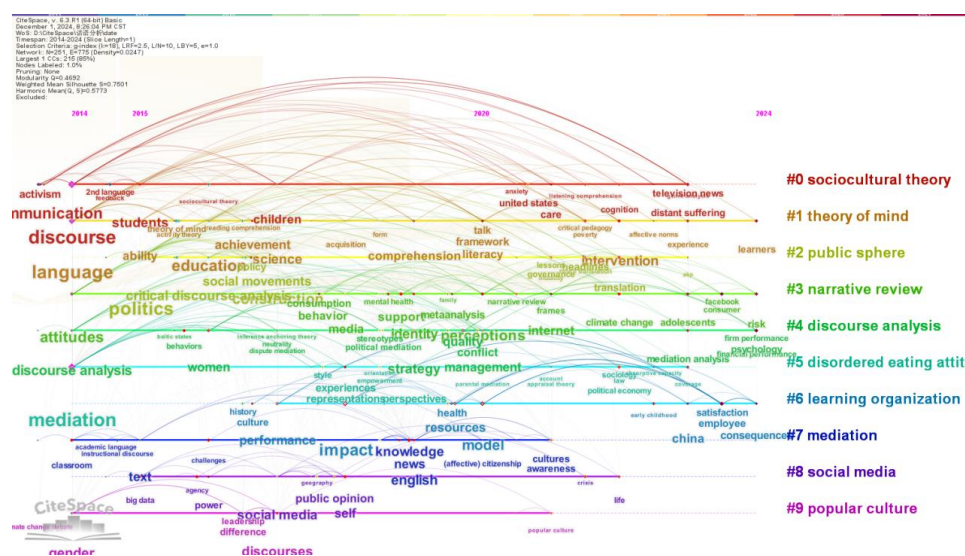


Figure 4 Timeline

The timeline view is a visualization tool in CiteSpace software designed to demonstrate the evolution of knowledge domains. This interface displays co-citation clustering results chronologically, with the horizontal axis representing time and the vertical axis indicating different clusters, clearly illustrating the developmental trajectory and evolutionary trends of various research themes over time (Li Jie, Chen Chaomei, 2016). Figure 4 presents a timeline map of key terms in mediation discourse research from 2014 to 2024, providing a diachronic analysis of knowledge dynamics in this field over the past decade. In CiteSpace software, selecting the Timeline View option generates the timeline shown in Figure 4. The chart reveals several distinct phases in mediation discourse research: 2011-2015: During this period, research focused on keywords such as communication, discourse, language, and politics, indicating early emphasis on the role of language and communication in political and social interactions. From 2016 to 2020, research expanded to more specific topics including students, children, education, and social movements, reflecting growing academic interest in mediation discourse's impact on education and social transformation. During the recent period from 2021 to 2023, keywords such as intervention, impact, knowledge, and model have gained prominence. This indicates that mediation discourse research has begun to focus on intervention

strategies, knowledge dissemination, and model construction, as well as how these factors influence social and individual behaviors.

The chart reveals that research themes in international mediation discourse have evolved from fundamental communication and discourse analysis to encompassing more complex socio-psychological phenomena such as mental health, public opinion, and self. This progression reflects the deepening theoretical and practical dimensions of mediation discourse studies. The emergence of keywords like sociocultural theory, theory of mind, and narrative review demonstrates interdisciplinary integration with fields including psychology, sociology, and education, highlighting the cross-disciplinary nature of mediation discourse research. Technologically, the rise of terms such as big data, social media, and internet indicates that mediation discourse studies are leveraging new technologies and methodologies to analyze communication patterns and discourse structures.

Finally, the emergence of keywords such as climate change, public sphere, and popular culture highlights the emerging focus of mediation discourse research in addressing global challenges and cultural phenomena. The evolution of this field demonstrates a diversified trajectory, progressing from foundational theories to applied practices, and further to interdisciplinary integration and technological innovation. Scholars continue to explore the role and impact of mediation discourse across various social domains, as well as how interventions and education can foster social harmony and development.

5. Analysis of Research Frontiers

On the Burstness Detection interface, select the “Keywords” node type and set $\gamma = 0.5$ to balance burst intensity and persistence. Use dynamic time slices (Slice Length=1 year), with a minimum burst duration of 2 years and a significance threshold of $p < 0.05$. Adjust the spatial layout of burst words via the Layout tool to position high-intensity bursts (Burst Strength > 3.0) at the center of the map. By examining the start and end times of burst words in the Timeline view, clusters with continuous bursts lasting ≥ 2 years were prioritized for research phase division, resulting in a burst map displaying 13 keywords.

Top 13 Keywords with the Strongest Citation Bursts

Keywords	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2014 - 2024
students	2015	2.61	2015	2018	
critical discourse analysis	2016	2.04	2016	2018	
social movements	2017	2.68	2017	2019	
discourse analysis	2014	2.49	2017	2017	
support	2019	2.73	2019	2021	
women	2016	2.43	2019	2020	
english	2019	2.32	2019	2022	
gender	2014	2.88	2020	2020	
construction	2017	2.49	2020	2020	
translation	2022	2.06	2022	2024	
impact	2018	3.61	2023	2024	
mediation analysis	2023	2.13	2023	2024	
social media	2017	2.05	2023	2024	

Figure 5 Chart of Keyword Highlighting

Mediation discourse, as a crucial component of social interaction, holds significant importance for understanding social communication, power relations, and social change. Through keyword prominence analysis, this study explores the academic frontiers in mediation discourse research and analyzes its dynamic evolution.

5.1 Mediation Discourse and the Field of Education (2014 – 2016)

Between 2014 and 2016, research on mediation discourse focused on keywords such as “students” and “critical discourse analysis,” highlighting the significance of discourse studies in education. As central subjects in education, students became a central focus of classroom discourse research. During this period, mediation discourse studies primarily examined how language facilitates understanding and collaboration between students and teachers, resolves classroom conflicts, and enhances the learning environment. Additionally, the research explored the role of mediation discourse in alleviating student emotions and mediating classroom conflicts, demonstrating language’s regulatory and mediating functions in educational practice.

5.2 Mediation Discourse and Social Movements (2017-2019)

Between 2017 and 2019, social movements and discourses emerged as focal points in mediation discourse research, reflecting the rapid global expansion of social movements and the pivotal role of discourse within these contexts. Janier and Reed (2017) demonstrated that mediators manage debates and maintain neutrality through metadiscourse strategies, with the verb “say” playing a regulatory function in mediation discourse. Corpus analysis highlighted the importance of this element in preserving neutrality, advancing systematic classification studies of argumentative metadiscourse. Their research provided novel perspectives for developing mediation discourse theories and classification frameworks. The authors further suggested that computational tools enable mediators to efficiently analyze discourse structures and strategies, thereby enhancing mediation effectiveness and informing operational models and mediation protocols. Social movements, as crucial vehicles for driving social change and expressing collective demands, encompass diverse issues ranging from environmental protection to gender equality, and from anti-racism to digital rights. Globally, many social movements have garnered increased attention and support through strategically designed discourse tactics, catalyzing political, legal, and societal transformations. Consequently, the relationship between social movements and discourse became a central research focus during this period.

5.3 Mediation Discourse and Women’s Issues (2018 – 2020)

Between 2018 and 2020, the keywords “support” and “women” emerged as prominent terms, reflecting growing global attention to gender equality and women’s rights issues, particularly their significance in mediation discourse research. In recent years, scholars have increasingly focused on how linguistic mediation discourse can support women’s rights, including critical reflection on gender discrimination, violence, and inequality. Against this backdrop, discourse analysis has become a vital tool for understanding and shaping gender equality advocacy. By examining gender biases in public discourse and their impact on

women's social status, researchers have uncovered language strategies supporting women's rights and their effectiveness. Such studies not only highlight discourse's pivotal role in shaping social attitudes but also provide theoretical foundations and practical guidance for advancing gender equality.

5.4 Mediation Discourse and Gender Construction (2020-2022)

Between 2020 and 2022, gender and construction emerged as prominent keywords, with gender construction becoming a pivotal issue in mediation discourse research. Studies on gender-power dynamics explored how language reflects and exacerbates gender inequality, particularly in family and labor disputes. Gender-sensitive and gender-neutral mediation discourses garnered significant attention, examining how mediators avoid gender stereotypes and foster inclusive dialogues, especially when addressing LGBTQ+ communities. The fluidity of gender identity became a focal point, analyzing its impact on cross-cultural and transgender mediation practices. Research also delved into the deconstruction of gendered language and the role of emotional differences in conflict resolution. Overall, studies on gender construction in mediation discourse advanced theories and practices of gender equality, emphasizing language's critical role in facilitating equitable dialogue.

5.5 Mediation Discourse and Social Media (2022 – 2024)

Between 2022 and 2024, research on mediation discourse has increasingly focused on influence analysis and mediation studies within the social media context. With the widespread adoption of social media platforms, scholars have recognized these platforms as not only tools for information dissemination but also critical mediators shaping individual behaviors, attitudes, and social interactions. Studies demonstrate that interactive patterns on social media play mediating roles in political communication, brand promotion, and social movements, significantly influencing information reception and dissemination effectiveness. Consequently, mediation factors such as user trust, emotional resonance, and network effects have become key research priorities. Wu and Zhou (2024) examined persuasive aggressive strategies in proxy mediation. Their findings reveal how disputing parties employ aggressive behaviors, consequences, and character traits to impose greater responsibilities on mediators, while mediators strategically balance biases to avoid favoritism. This study highlights dynamic shifts in mediators' neutrality and accountability during family mediation processes, providing theoretical support for practical mediation practices. Emerging trends indicate that future mediation analysis will emphasize cross-platform comparisons, affective computing in social media environments, and big data analytics applications.

Through the analysis of emerging keywords, this study reveals the cutting-edge topics and developmental trends in mediation discourse research. From educational discourse to social movements, and further to gender equality, mental health, and transformations in social media, these keywords not only reflect the diversity of mediation discourse research but also indicate potential directions for future investigations. The forefront of mediation discourse research focuses on emerging communication models, the social functions of discourse, and innovative applications of discourse analysis methods. As research advances, this field will provide deeper insights into how discourse shapes social interactions and individual behaviors. The dynamic evolution of mediation discourse is manifested in its growing research intensity,

interdisciplinary integration with multiple related fields, and its increasingly vital role in social mediation. In the future, mediation discourse research is poised to offer novel perspectives and methodologies for understanding and addressing social issues.

6. Conclusion

Mediation discourse, as a crucial field in social science research, demonstrates interdisciplinary characteristics and multidimensional values across sociocultural contexts, psychological mechanisms, public governance, educational interactions, and digital communication. In recent years, with the accelerated development of globalization and technological advancement, mediation discourse research has expanded from traditional linguistic analysis to more sophisticated sociocultural methodologies, showcasing extensive interdisciplinary features. Sociocultural theory provides a solid theoretical foundation for mediation discourse studies, revealing how social culture shapes individual behavioral patterns in conflict resolution, communication, and cooperation through linguistic and cultural transmission. Within this framework, mediation discourse serves not only as an information carrier but also as a vital tool for social identity formation and cultural construction—particularly highlighting its pivotal role in resolving multicultural conflicts amid globalization and cross-cultural interactions. Concurrently, cognitive theory has deepened understanding of mediation discourse, emphasizing the importance of achieving emotional consensus and psychological regulation through language. Research indicates that the effectiveness of mediation discourse relies not only on logical reasoning and factual statements but also on cognitive processing of emotions and attitudes. In public spheres, mediation discourse research focuses on mediating public discussions, social policies, and political behaviors. Grounded in Habermas's public sphere theory, mediation discourse functions as a communicative bridge facilitating rational discourse and consensus formation. With the evolution of social media and digital platforms, the construction of public spheres has undergone significant transformations, presenting new challenges and opportunities for discourse mediation functions. Social media serves not only as a channel for information dissemination but also as a vital platform for social interaction and cultural identity formation, exerting profound influence on the dissemination and effectiveness of mediation discourse. In education, mediation discourse has become central to teaching-learning interactions. Scholars focus on how mediation discourse can facilitate students' cognitive development, emotional growth, and socialization processes. Within the framework of learning organizations, mediation discourse encompasses teacher-student interactions and collaborative student exchanges, with its core function being to build learning communities through language, thereby promoting knowledge sharing and cooperative learning. Research indicates that the application of mediation discourse in education extends beyond knowledge transmission to include emotional communication and the cultivation of social skills.

With the rise of social media, mediation discourse has diversified its forms of expression in cyberspace. Scholars focus on how social media regulates group dynamics through discourse, shapes public opinion, and influences political decision-making. Popular culture, as another critical domain of mediation discourse,

examines how cultural products and media content shape societal values and attitudes. The interplay between social media and popular culture generates significant social impact. In this context, mediation discourse serves not only as a conflict resolution tool but also plays a role in shaping social perceptions and regulating behavioral norms.

In the future, research on mediation discourse will continue to drive theoretical innovation and methodological development within the context of globalization and technological advancement, while exploring novel applications in cross-cultural communication and social platforms. Through deeper interdisciplinary collaboration that integrates quantitative and qualitative approaches, studies on mediation discourse are expected to provide new theoretical foundations and practical guidance for resolving international disputes, addressing social conflicts, fostering educational innovation, enhancing political engagement, and promoting cultural understanding.

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