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Article

Scholarly Research on Kazi Nazrul Islam: A Bibliometric Study

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Abstract

Kazi Nazrul Islam, referred as the "Rebel Poet," is a significant figure in modern Bengali literature. Moreover, he is recognized for his contributions not only to Bengali literature, but also to music, and political ideology. His work advocates for equality, secularism, anti-colonialism, humanism, social justice, communal cohesion, and educational reform. This research is an attempt to elucidate his impact in contemporary global contexts using systematic review and meta-analysis. This study performed an extensive literature review using prominent global indexing and abstracting databases, including Web of Science, Lens.org, Scopus, Dimensions, and Google Scholar. The databases were queried using the phrase "Kazi Nazrul Islam," and data from Google Scholar was extracted utilizing the software "Publish or Perish" (PoP). The data was stored in Microsoft Excel, consolidated, and duplicate entries were eliminated. The final Excel sheet had 148 records, selected for conclusive examination, guaranteeing thorough representation of academic literature across many disciplines. This study has observed that research on Kazi Nazrul Islam has increased in recent years. The majority of papers not cited, because social science articles garnering fewer citations than those in the natural sciences. Finally, six major topics are delineated: Life Poetry and Politics, Global Influence, Stylometry and Authorship in Bengali Literature, Translation Studies, Tagore and Political Thought, and Post-colonialism in Bengali Literature.

Keywords: Kazi Nazrul Islam; systemic review; meta-analysis; bibliometric study; Bengali literature; India

Introduction

Kazi Nazrul Islam, also known as the "Rebel Poet," is a prominent figure in contemporary intellectual discourse. His numerous contributions to Bengali literature, music, and political thought remain highly relevant and are studied from a variety of academic perspectives. Kazi Nazrul Islam's work is important today, particularly his support for equality, secularism, anticolonial struggle, and humanism. Scholarly literature continually emphasises Nazrul's long-lasting impact on contemporary discussions about social fairness, communal harmony, and educational reform. Even though Nazrul's significance is well acknowledged, there are limited research works are available on his influence in modern global contexts.

Scholarly research on Kazi Nazrul Islam's importance in the modern world is expanding, but there are still many unanswered questions, particularly on the breadth, depth, and worldwide influence of his legacy. In this context this research is an attempt to map scholarly research on Kazi Nazrul Islam from globally available indexing and abstracting databases (viz, Web of Science, Scopus, Lens.org, Dimension.ai. and Google scholar). While doing so, this paper tries to map the growth of scholarly research on Nazrul, the major themes of research, most cited articles and so on.

Kazi Nazrul Islam



Kazi Nazrul Islam (b 1899–d 1976), often called the Bidrohi Kobi (Rebel Poet), occupies a central place in modern Bengali literature and cultural history. He was born in British Bengal Presidency. After serving in the British Indian Army during World War I, Nazrul settled in Calcutta, where he began his literary career (Britannica, 2023). His most famous poem, Bidrohi ("The Rebel"), published in 1922, became an emblem of anti-colonial struggle (Mondal, 2019). Through his journals, particularly Dhumketu ("The Comet"), Nazrul articulated strong critiques of British imperialism and the oppression of marginalized groups, leading to imprisonment for sedition (Britannica, 2023).

Beyond political activism, his works emphasized social justice, religious pluralism, and mystical love drawing inspiration from both Sufi and Bhakti traditions (Iqbal Review, 2020). His vast contribution to music, known as 'Nazrul Geeti', included patriotic songs, Islamic ghazals, Hindu devotional pieces, and folk-inspired compositions, reflecting his cultural syncretism (Sprinpub, 2022).

His career was cut short in the 1940s when he developed a degenerative neurological disorder (New World Encyclopedia, 2023). Following the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, Nazrul was honored as the "National Poet" and moved to Dhaka in 1972. He spent his final years until his death in 1976 (Britannica, 2023).

Review of Related Studies

Today, Nazrul's legacy lies in his fusion of poetry, music, and political thought, which continues to inspire struggles for justice and social harmony in South Asia. His numerous contributions to Bengali literature, music, and political thought remain highly relevant and are studied from a variety of academic perspectives. His works are still important today, particularly his support for equality, secularism, anticolonial struggle, and humanism. Scholarly literature continually emphasises Nazrul's long-lasting impact on contemporary discussions about social fairness, communal harmony, and educational reform.

Social Justice, Equality, and Humanism

Nazrul's poetry and prose emphasised equality, gender egalitarianism, and opposition to persecution. His aspirations for fairness, communal harmony, and universal human dignity are seen as clearly related to current efforts against inequality and prejudice. His writings continue to motivate movements for social justice and human rights. Akhter (2024 a) has observed that Kazi Nazrul Islam's works, rooted in personal hardship, advocated for Hindu-Muslim unity, condemning religious fanaticism and hypocrisy, and continue to inspire resistance against oppression (Akhter, 2024a). Acharyya, explored Kazi Nazrul Islam's love themes, highlighting personal, divine, dark romanticism, and childlike affection. Moreover, Nazrul's prioritization of patriotic love for his motherland, highlighted the interplay between individual longing and nationalistic ideals in his literary works (Acharyya, 2024). Langley and Rights (2023) delved into the vision of Kazi Nazrul, who foresaw a future global society built on caring, solidarity, and mutual respect that would transcend ethnicity, nationality, and social class. Nazrul's beliefs have inspired and harmonised with numerous cultural, religious, and philosophical traditions, as well as international policy initiatives such as human rights regimes and treaties for the global commons. Despite prevailing political realism and societal differences, Nazrul's vision of a unified, compassionate humanity is still relevant and represented in on-going global movements for peace, justice, and the common good (Langley & Rights, 2023). According to Mahmud and Joshimuddin (2001), labelling him only as a rebel poet is a misnomer, as his writings also address issues like as love, humanism, equality, feminism, patriotism, and religious peace. Nazrul's contributions to numerous literary genres as well as his campaign for unification, justice, and the upliftment of humanity, demonstrating that his literary legacy is far more than merely revolt (Mahmud & Joshimuddin, 2021). Islam and Farhanaz (2021), investigated how, behind his literary works, he controlled and confronted notions of revolt, war, equality, humanism, tolerance, and even secularism, announcing the idea of love and its practice among human races, both covertly and publicly. His resistance is against all forms of injustice, inequality, orthodoxy,

fascism, and racism, all of which consciously, and sometimes inadvertently, shout the phrase "greater love for the entire human race." Furthermore, it is observed that while Nazrul dealt with a variety of topics, this literary works conveyed message of love for humanity (Islam & Farhanaz, 2021). Hossain and Iseni's study examines poverty in world literature through selected writings of Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Poverty," Thomas Montague Traherne's Poverty, and Charles Dickens' Hard Times. It seeks to investigate the expressions of poverty and their relevance to the current era. Nazrul, Dickens, and Traherne have endured adversity, bitterness, and psychological issues in order to investigate the practical realities and gloomy aspects of human society and civilisation. The researchers aim to foster unexplored themes of poverty through investigating selected works and critical comments from critics and scholars (Hossain & Iseni, 2020). Sarkar (2019) examined Nazrul's usage of the First World War in Bengali prose fiction. His works frequently associate military duty with patriotism, presenting an ideal of heroic manhood for the hero-deprived Bengali culture. These works situate Bengali Muslims in an urban, middle-class literary setting, forging an identity within Indian nationalism. Moreover, Nazrul's prose fiction appropriates and personalises the conflict for emotional selfprojection, addressing public conceptions of heroic masculinity and patriotism (Sarkar, 2019). Islam and Arefin examined Nazrul's contributions to equality and egalitarianism in 20th century. Using secondary data and survey methods, it was discovered that Nazrul's poetry emphasised the equality of both sexes in human life. They demonstrated that Nazrul condemned religious fanaticism and called for freedom and dignity. His work emphasised the usage of cultural and religious traditions from Indian faiths. He advocated for global belonging, despite his own experiences with British colonialism. His Universalist attitude protects human dignity and fosters togetherness (Islam & Arefin, 2017). Hoque & Uddin, explored Nazrul's approach to poverty. Nazrul had an human-centric mental set-up to encourage steps to alleviate poverty issues, unlike Western concepts like Socialism or Marxism (Hoque & Uddin, 2016).

Secularism and Communal Harmony

Nazrul's firm stance against religious fanaticism, as well as his advocacy for communal harmony, and inter-faith cooperation, is commonly highlighted as models for dealing with present religious' intolerance and communal conflict. His approach towards religion and support for secularism are still profoundly important in cultures confronting religious discord. His vision for Hindu-Muslim reconciliation and secularism in India was manifested through his writings and activism. He condemned religious fundamentalism and, advocated for a global and humanistic approach that emphasised harmony and the acceptance of truth across faiths. His works attacked communalism and religious dogma, with the goal of bridging gaps and encourage social justice. His legacy is still very relevant today, providing insight on how to overcome religious intolerance and divisiveness (Akhter, 2024b).

Anticolonial and Decolonial Thought

Nazrul's writings are known for their anti-colonial activism and as a source of inspiration for decolonisation movements. His poetry and journalism are researched for their role in resisting imperialism and advocating cultural self-determination. Both of which are relevant concerns in postcolonial discourse. Uddin and colleagues compared poems of Kazi Nazrul Islam and Caribbean poet Derek Walcott, both from marginalized nations, using Traditional Literary Criticism and a new comparative study shaped by Zepetnek. It was observed that both poets navigate similar poetic resistances, addressing national unity, revival of history, unique literature, concerns of working-class and anti-colonial struggle. The research may contribute to raising cultural awareness among marginalized nations about resisting aggression (Uddin et al., 2024). Mondal (2023) investigated the strategies of resistance to British imperialism in the writings of Kazi Nazrul Islam. It focuses on Nazrul's use of many literary genres for example; poetry, prose, music, and journalism. The research observed that Nazrul's poem encouraged resistance against colonialism and social injustice. The

study further observed that Nazrul's writings extend beyond poetry, embracing themes of equality, patriotism, religious harmony, and global humanism, making his resistance literature relevant across countries and eras (Mondal, 2023). Rahaman, examined Kazi Nazrul Islam's poetry and activism, focusing on decolonisation and its connection to his struggle against the British colonial regime and racism. He argues that Nazrul's poetry challenged the Western ideology of culture, race, anthropocentrism, and androcentrism, arguing for a cultural revolution against colonialism (Rahaman, 2022). According to Uddin (2022) his songs, particularly those with Persian overtones, make an important contribution to the decolonisation of Bangla literature in British India. Moreover, Nazrul's effort to resurrect Bangla literature to a rightful literary sphere was praiseworthy (Uddin, 2022).

Educational Reform and Women's Empowerment

Nazrul's educational philosophy emphasised secular, scientific, and moral education, as well as women's empowerment. His ideas that remains pertinent in contemporary educational arena. Behera (2021), analyse Kazi Nazrul Islam's educational thoughts, including concepts, goals, curriculum, teaching methods, teacher role, and relevance in the contemporary era. He showed that Nazrul advocated for a secular school education system and a Gandhian approach of teaching, advocating for the moral development of young students (Behera, 2021).

Arabic Influence and Linguistic Innovation

His use of Arabic words and Islamic themes in his poetry and prose is regarded as a component of Bengali Literature's Islamic renaissance. It reflected the changing linguistic and cultural landscape of Bengal. Numani (2024) focused on the size and a type of Arabic words used in his poetry and writings (Numani, 2024). Rashid and Nur opined that Nazrul, used extensive Arabic and Persian words. He was a multilingual poet as it is observed from his use of Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Urdu words, even sentences, in almost every part of his literature (Rashid and Nur, 2017).

Romanticism and Literary Influence

While influenced by English Romanticism, Nazrul created a distinct romantic ideology based on Bengal's socio-historical reality. Rahman (2024a) examined the influence of English Romanticism on Nazrul. He showed that Nazrul's poetry is characterized by English Romanticism (Rahman, 2024a).

Journalism and Political Thought

His journalistic writings are important manifestations of his political thought. Deb (2023) presents Nazrul as a prominent journalist with a career spanning three key newspapers: *Nabajug, Dhumketu,* and *Langol.* Further it is observed that Nazrul's editorials addressed issues like untouchability, racial discrimination, power structure, and communal harmony (Deb, 2023).

These different thematic analyses research show that Kazi Nazrul Islam's legacy as a poet of resistance, a defender of humanism, and a bridge-builder across religious and cultural boundaries is significant in modern scholarly discourse.

Research Gaps

Scholarly research on Kazi Nazrul Islam's importance in the modern world is relevant. However, there are still many unanswered questions, particularly on the breadth, depth, and worldwide influence of his legacy.

1. Limited Comparative and Thematic Analysis: There aren't many comparative studies that place Nazrul alongside other international anti-colonial or humanist thinkers in modern contexts. Instead, most studies concentrate on Nazrul's functions as a poet of resistance, an advocate for

equality, and a fosterer of social harmony. His poetry is frequently the focus of research, while his writings, journalism, and other intellectual contributions receiving less attention.

- **2.** Underappreciated Modern Uses: Although Nazrul's views on social justice, secularism, and anti-colonialism are seen as pertinent, little empirical research has been done on how his theories are being actively implemented or influencing contemporary social, political, or educational movements, particularly outside of South Asia. It is not well known how Nazrul's egalitarian and educational principles have been used in contemporary curriculum and policies.
- **3. Linguistic and Geographic Restrictions:** There is little cross-cultural or international contact, and a large portion of the work is still limited to South Asian Bengali academic circles. As his contribution is mainly in Bengali language, more translations and research are required to make Nazrul's writings understandable and pertinent to a worldwide readership.

Research Questions

This research endeavours to delineate scholarly literature indexed or abstracted on Kazi Nazrul Islam through several global databases. This paper will pose the following research questions:

- 1. What are the trends in scientific publications on Kazi Nazrul Islam in global indexing and abstracting databases?
- 2. What are the prevailing tendencies in publication?
- 3. What are the various categories of publications on Nazrul?
- 4. What is the citation pattern of works?
- 5. What are the themes of research articles?

Methodology

To answer the aforementioned issues, a comprehensive literature search was conducted in prominent worldwide indexing and abstracting databases. This study selects the following database: Web of Science, Lens.org, Scopus, Dimensions, and Google Scholar. All databases were queried using the phrase "Kazi Nazrul Islam" as it appears in any field (title, abstract, keywords) of the records. Nevertheless, Google Scholar data was extracted utilizing the software "Publish or Perish" (PoP). Launched in 2006, Publish or Perish is a complimentary software tool created by Anne-Wil Harzing (University of Melbourne) that extracts and examines scholarly citations (Harzing, 2007). All records retrieved from such databases were collected in Microsoft Excel. The separately downloaded data were subsequently amalgamated, and redundant records were eliminated. Several ambiguous citations have been eliminated due to their incompleteness. The final Excel sheet comprises 148 records, deemed suitable for conclusive examination.

This paper use systemic review and meta-analysis to get the answer on the research questions raised above. A systematic review is a methodical and exhaustive synthesis of research studies pertaining to a given topic or research issue, adhering to a well-defined process. It seeks to find, assess, and integrate all empirical evidence that fulfils predetermined qualifying criteria (Gough et. al., 2017). A meta-analysis is a statistical method employed to aggregate the findings of various studies inside a systematic review to obtain a consolidated estimate of impact magnitude or association. A systematic review is a methodical approach to synthesizing information, whereas a meta-analysis employs statistical techniques to statistically aggregate findings from research. Collectively, they provide robust instruments for evidence-based decision-making across several fields (Moher et.al., 2009, Borenstein, et.al., 2011, Petticrew & Roberts, 2006).

Results

A comprehensive literature review was performed across five international indexing and abstracting databases: Web of Science, Scopus, Lens.org, Dimensions.ai, and Google Scholar.

Literature Growth Pattern

The discernible expansion of literature has been noted only in recent years. Approximately 14 articles were published sequentially in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Recent publication patterns indicate a rise in works concerning Nazrul. Additionally, potential factors may include the expanding reach of Google Scholar Lens and the dimension database.

Document Types of Publications

Of the 148 articles evaluated in this analysis, citation papers 43 constitutes the most significant category at 29.05 per cent, followed by articles 33 at 22.30 per cent, and others at 12.16 per cent. The remaining document kinds are as follows PDF 14 (9.46 per cent), Book 9 (6.08 per cent), and Chapter 6 (4.05 per cent), chapter of the book 5 (3.38 per cent), dissertation 5 (3.38 percent), preprint 4 (2.70 percent), conference paper 3 (2.03 per cent), and so on.

Citation Patterns

Out of the 148 scholarly articles examined for this study, only 9 articles are cited. The work titled "Lyricist Identification using Stylometric Features utilizing Bangla Music Stylo Dataset" has got the most number of citations (only 8 citations). This is a conference paper by Ahmed Al Marouf and Rafayet Hossain, presented at ICBSLP 2019 conference. Stylometry entails the utilization of statistical, computational, and machine learning techniques to examine patterns in writing style. These tendencies are frequently subconscious, rendering them challenging for authors to conceal. The study examined authorship attribution of Bangla song lyrics, specifically determining if a lyric was composed by Rabindranath Tagore (856 songs) or Kazi Nazrul Islam (620 songs).

Topic Modelling

The paper further conducted a thematic analysis of the specified articles based on their titles. The pieces can be classified into six primary themes:

- 1. *Kazi Nazrul Islam: Biography, Poetry, and Political Engagement*: These articles examine Nazrul's literary accomplishments, political involvement, and his identity as a revolutionary and cultural symbol. The primary thematic emphasis is on Nazrul's poetry as a medium for insurrection, egalitarianism, anti-colonialism, religious amalgamation, and social equity.
- 2. *Nazrul's Worldwide and Comparative Impact*: These articles juxtapose Nazrul's oeuvre with global surroundings or other poets, underscoring his transnational impact. This theme examines Nazrul's impact extending beyond Bengal to the Middle East, Europe, and Turkey.
- 3. Stylometry and Authorship in Bengali Literature: This theme centers on the Digital Humanities, Artificial Intelligence, and stylometry for the analysis of Bengali texts and the generation of literature. These articles employ computational techniques (stylometry, neural networks, deep learning) to examine literary style and authorship in Bengali literature.
- 4. *Translation Studies and Literary Mediation*: These sections examine translation as a cultural conduit, emphasizing the translator's function in understanding and transmitting Bengali literature. The theme can be classified under the realms of translation philosophy, cultural mediation, and the creative function of translators.
- 5. *Tagore's Political Philosophy*: The fifth thematic category emphasizes Tagore's involvement in worldwide revolutions, liberation movements, and music as a form of political and cultural expression. References within these categories concentrate on Rabindranath Tagore, particularly on world politics and his musical artistry.
- 6. Post colonialism and Bengali Literature: The concluding categories pertain to the theoretical analysis of Bengali literary identity within the framework of postcolonial studies. Only one article may be classified inside this category. This article examines the role of Bengali literature within postcolonial discourse.



Discussion

This paper investigates patterns of scholarly research works on Kazi Nazrul Islam as represented in several global indexing and abstracting databases. Research papers on Kazi Nazrul Islam was extracted from Web of Science, Scopus, Lens.org, Dimension.ai, and Google Scholar utilizing the phrase "Kazi Nazrul Islam" as a keyword across all fields. After downloading relevant records, 148 records are selected after the removal of duplicates. Examination was conducted on the growth of literature, document types, cited works, and the thematic analysis of those mentioned works. The data indicates a recent rise in research on Kazi Nazrul Islam. Nonetheless, growth is exceedingly constrained. Further research is necessary, encompassing diverse facets of Kazi Nazrul Islam's life and thought. Analysis of document types reveals that the majority are citations, followed by articles, books, and book chapters. As it is universally accepted fact that social science articles typically garner less citation than natural science articles. As most of the research works in this area fall under social science subjects, very few articles are cited. The maximum number of citations received by an article is merely 8. The citation structure indicates that the area is closely related, suggesting that collaboration may be restricted. Six thematic concerns have been identified based on the referenced articles. Themes include: 1. Kazi Nazrul Islam: Life, Poetry, and Politics. 2. Nazrul's Worldwide and Comparative Impact, 3. Stylometry and Authorship in Bengali Literature, 4. Translation Studies and Literary Mediation. 5. Tagore's Political Philosophy and 6. Post colonialism and Bengali Literature

Concluding Remarks

No database exists that can thoroughly catalogue Bengali literature. This study has an inherent constraint due to the fact that all research in these databases is conducted in English. So, the works published other than English is not possible to include here for the analysis. Certainly, this is inherent limitation of this research.

Due to anomalies in the database, such as those seen in Google Scholar, authors' connections are not being scrutinized. Consequently, locating the writers' associations was challenging. Consequently, it was challenging to ascertain the number of products originating from India and Bangladesh.

This research is founded on bibliographic material. However, a comprehensive full text analysis of the material may provide a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. There is a necessity for additional research and a concentrated approach to Nazrul and his oeuvre. Furthermore, it is recommended to establish a Bengali language database. Also, institutional archives or central repositories to house Nazrul's works and research pertaining to him is required.

Even though Nazrul's significance is well acknowledged, more research is required to document his influence in modern global contexts, widen the scope, and enhance comparative analysis. These shortcomings will be filled in part by exploring real-world applications, broadening the scope beyond poetry, and boosting international interaction. Nazrul's vision of justice, secularism, and human dignity continues to shape and inspire current debates about social reform, communal harmony, and resistance to persecution. His impact is widely acknowledged as a driving force in creating an equal and inclusive society.

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