

LANGUAGE DIVERSITY AND LITERATURE REVIEWS IN TOURISM RESEARCH

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Language bias is a common yet undiscussed practice that can significantly constrain the rigor and generalization of place-based studies and literature reviews. This article discusses how research published in English compared with other languages is considered or not when conducting literature reviews. This research focuses specifically on tourism research and explores specific journal article examples in the contemporary subject area of overtourism within destination-based studies. To do this, we take a critical linguistic, postpositivist approach to three case studies drawn from the literature on the phenomenon of overtourism. The study highlights how research in languages other than English is often discounted or omitted in academic fields that are dominated by English language publications. Nevertheless, our findings strongly support the proposition that place-specific research, to be rigorous and generalizable, should be supported by research carried out in relevant languages for its location. This research provides evidence that place-based research, based on literature from multiple languages and interdisciplinarity, can be reliable, valid, and trustworthy. The study also notes the recommendations for conducting literature reviews within place-specific research and avenues for future research.

Key words: Literature reviews; Language bias; Place-based research; Tourism research; Overtourism

Introduction

Literature reviews are a critical aspect of, and the foundation for, research synthesizing current knowledge and are fundamental to identifying

avenues for future research (Paul & Criado, 2020). Review articles help experts and non-experts make sense of the growing research publications volume (Byrne, 2016). A report by Clarivate Analytics demonstrated the substantial growth in the number of

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literature reviews published in the Web of Science Core Collection. For example, at the time of writing, as of September 2021, this database holds records of 90,490 articles published on the topic #tourism, out of which 8.5% are book reviews (5,186 records) and review articles (2,527 records); 52% of these tourism-focused review articles were published from 2017 to June 2021. This massive increase in published reviews, not just in tourism but also in other subdisciplines within the social sciences, emphasizes the importance of a solid framework for producing an objective and critical summary of published research that contributes to the literature.

However, amid such a rise in publications, Konno et al. (2020) argued that language bias is often overlooked, wherein the nature of a study's results can affect the chosen language of its publication. The authors concluded that omitting studies published in languages other than English is a common yet undiscussed practice. This limited inclusion of non-English studies is related to, but not limited to, a lack of resources (Rasmussen & Montgomery, 2018), an individual's perception of quality, the rigor of the methodology applied, and the review process (Grzybowski & Kanclerz, 2019). Evidence from Morrison et al. (2012), which is related to the influence of language restrictions in systematic review-based meta-analyses, demonstrated inconsistencies of evidence and a lack of understanding, leading to calls for further research to determine the impact of language bias on the quality of reviews.

A recently published systematic review in tourism research revealed serious methodological flaws related to reporting on language as an exclusion criterion (Pahlevan-Sharif et al., 2019). The authors suggested that only 36% of authors included in this review (69 out of 192) reported whether they imposed language restrictions when conducting a systematic literature review. A brief overview of recently published tourism-related reviews suggests the dominant inclusion of only English language studies (Booth et al., 2020; Chang & Katrichis, 2016; Ellis et al., 2018; Gstaettner et al., 2018; Hamid et al., 2021; Loureiro et al., 2020; Navío-Marco et al., 2018; Spasojevic et al., 2018; Tavakoli & Wijesinghe, 2019; Tölkes, 2018; Wut et al., 2021; Yung & Khoo-Lattimore, 2019). This reluctance towards the inclusion of non-English sources sits opposite conclusions drawn by Liburd

(2012), explaining that the “tourism academy should embrace the challenge of new knowledge contributors through reciprocal exchanges, communicative action and open dialogues to effectively harness the richer flows and new opportunities for the dissemination of knowledge” (p. 902).

A recent research topic that illuminates the influence of the inclusion of local language sources in research is “overtourism.” This term has reaffirmed some of the tourism industry's inherent deficiencies and opened the door to its redesign (Mihalic, 2020). Initial studies focused on explaining the phenomenon of overtourism (Capocchi et al., 2019; Cheer et al., 2019; Goodwin, 2019; Milano, Novelli, & Cheer, 2019b; Peeters et al., 2018), and this emerging field has been further advanced with numerous place-based case studies addressing specific contexts and destinations (Mandić, 2021; Milano, Novelli, & Cheer, 2019a; Namberger et al., 2019; Sarantakou & Terkenli, 2019; Séraphin et al., 2018). What seems to be familiar to these case studies is their reliance on local language literature and data sources facilitated by the study design (e.g., ethnography) or (co)authors originating from the case study destination. These examples and the globalized nature of tourism suggest that non-English literature can add to the rigor and generalization of study results (Correia & Kozak, 2022; Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019). However, there is yet no convincing evidence of the influence of language bias on the quality of tourism reviews.

As a result, this article focuses on how a review should be conducted in place-based business-oriented research, using tourism as an example. More specifically, attention has been restricted to reviews that focus on the phenomenon of overtourism to investigate the importance of using literature written in the language of the destination of the case study. Overtourism has been chosen because:

1. Despite its tentative break due to the pandemic over the past 3 years, the challenges associated with overtourism are still current for many tourism destinations (Séraphin et al., 2018) and relevant here as most research into this phenomenon involves place-based studies (Mandić, 2021; Milano, Novelli, & Cheer, 2019a; Namberger et al., 2019; Sarantakou & Terkenli, 2019; Séraphin et al., 2018).

2. The topic remains contemporary and relevant as it generates many publications (Duignan et al., 2022; Mandić & Petric, 2021; Mihalic, 2020).
3. Overtourism has been recently discussed alongside COVID-19 (Mandić & Kennell, 2021), highlighting its continuing importance as a current issue (Tiwari & Chowdhary, 2021). There is a rational expectation that, as global tourism recovers, the preexisting challenges associated with overtourism in many destinations will resume.
4. The knowledge that we have of the overtourism phenomenon is essentially derived from literature reviews, which have highlighted, among other points, that overtourism, contrary to the general assumption, is not a new phenomenon, but a long-term issue exacerbated by a range of political, economic, social, and technological factors (Dodds & Butler, 2019; Frey, 2021; Milano, Cheer, & Novelli, 2019). Equally important, research investigating overtourism from the academic perspective is almost exclusively based on literature reviews (Séraphin et al., 2020; Séraphin & Yallop, 2021).
5. Last, but not least, this study could have been written without focusing on an individual tourism issue. However, focusing on a specific case like this makes the study more focused (Hammond & Wellington, 2013). Additionally, because of the nature of overtourism (Dodds & Butler, 2019; Frey, 2021; Milano, Cheer, & Novelli, 2019; Séraphin et al., 2020; Séraphin & Yallop, 2021), research from multiple perspectives within tourism studies (and related topics) can be represented in the investigation, broadening its relevance.

The study aims to gain new insights into the positioning of the English language compared to other languages in tourism-related academic research and to identify and discuss the benefits and challenges of using multilanguage literature reviews when conducting tourism research. In the same way, the language used in tourism promotional materials plays a significant role in the branding of a destination and also in the decision process of consumers (Potočnik Topler, 2021); this study argues that by missing academic literature written in languages other than English important

knowledge is being missed. Correia and Kozak (2022) seem to share this view when conducting their literature review (Y. Liu et al., 2015; Neria & Pickover, 2019) while noting trends and suggesting future research. Importantly, this study analyzed key elements such as journals and countries (therefore languages) and the standard of publications. Correia and Kozak (2022) did not limit their search to the rankings of authors and the rankings of journals, which are often considered criteria for selection by some academics (Hall, 2011; McKercher, 2008; McKercher et al., 2006; Mulet-Forteza et al., 2019; Zhao & Ritchie, 2007).

To address the aims of the study, two research questions (RQs) were addressed:

RQ1: How important is the language in which research is carried out and published for reducing bias in place-based research?

RQ2: Does using multilanguage literature in place-based research enhance its rigor and generalizability?

From a methodological point of view, the study adopts a critical linguistic approach to existing literature reviews in tourism research that differs from previous research, which is generally based on textual narrative synthesis; meta-summary; meta-narrative; scoping review; meta-analysis; realist reviews; ecological triangulation; meta-ethnography; thematic synthesis; meta-interpretation; meta-study; and framework synthesis (Xiao & Watson, 2019). This critical linguistic approach is one of the pillars of comparative education (Jarvis, 1996; Padurean & Maggi, 2011), which, for instance, has played a significant role in comparative tourism education (Ballatore, 2002; Séraphin, 2012). This study takes a postpositivist approach based on three case studies. It uses secondary sources (Brunt et al., 2017) in order to understand the “how” and “why” of a phenomenon (Cihangir & Seremet, 2022; Hammond & Wellington, 2013), namely, the dominance of English in literature reviews for academic research in tourism.

Literature Review

Among other points, a literature review is a suitable way to understand the general research

approach and practice in a specific area (Hammond & Wellington, 2013). To do this, this section takes a progressive three-step approach. The first step provides information on the types of literature reviews, the purpose and benefits of conducting literature reviews, and finally, key parameters to consider when conducting literature reviews. The second step focuses on the central issue regarding literature reviews in academic research (regardless of the field of research). The final stage focuses on academic tourism research while relating issues raised in previous sections to this particular context.

A General Overview

Literature reviews, whether systematic (Linnenluecke et al., 2020; Xiao & Watson, 2019), author centric, theme centric (based on a specific topic or phenomena, and also the most common form of literature review), or integrative (Snyder, 2019), are an important stage of a research project (Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019; Linnenluecke et al., 2020). A consensus seems to have been reached among researchers regarding the purpose and benefits of this research stage. Among these are: (1) identifying what has been written on a specific topic or field of research; (2) identifying the methodologies used to collect data in this particular area; (3) the formulation of hypotheses; (4) summarizing key findings or claims that have emerged from prior publications, and (5) helping researchers to conclude a particular topic (Dumez, 2011; Knopf, 2006). The first point, identifying what has already been written, appears to be the most important, as this stage enables researchers to avoid duplication and make an original contribution (Dumez, 2011; Knopf, 2006).

A well-conducted literature review should enable a research project to be innovative, which can involve building on research already carried out from a different perspective or adding a new dimension to existing research. Sometimes this entails applying existing findings to a different field of research or being multidisciplinary in the research approach. Literature reviews support contributions to knowledge by identifying approaches that have not previously been used (Dumez, 2011; Knopf, 2006) and determining areas of research where some flaws or problems need to be addressed

(Knopf, 2006). Finally, they can help to suggest the most suitable research method for a new study while providing a basis to analyze the findings of new research (Rowley & Slak, 2004).

Overall, it seems that a consensus has been reached among researchers regarding the purpose and benefits of conducting a literature review (Dumez, 2011; Knopf, 2006; Linnenluecke et al., 2020; Rowley & Slak, 2004; Xiao & Watson, 2019). However, despite this consensus, there is great diversity in suggestions for conducting a reliable literature review, with Xiao and Watson (2019) arguing that there is no guidance on how to do this effectively and that more rigor is needed when carrying them out. As a result, they suggested four different steps when conducting a literature review: Firstly, the search should be interdisciplinary and conducted in the English language. Next, suitable keywords and databases should be chosen. Thirdly, a screening process should occur, choosing what to retain and reject. Finally, only reputable sources should be included.

Linnenluecke et al. (2020) added analyzing and synthesizing the literature and presenting results to that list. Snyder (2019) also called for more rigor in literature reviews stating that “traditional literature reviews often lack thoroughness and rigour and are conducted ad hoc, rather than following a specific methodology” (p. 333). Therefore, questions can be raised about the quality and trustworthiness of these types of reviews. Despite this, the steps for reviews that he suggested are no different to those identified by Xiao and Watson (2019). Linnenluecke et al. (2020) additionally remarked that there may not be a best practice approach because the literature varies significantly, depending on the field of study.

Another important element to consider when conducting a literature review is its rigor, which impacts the validity of the research conclusions (Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019). Reviews can be conducted using books, articles, reports, conference papers, and working papers, either in hard copies or online (Knopf, 2006), web resources, and bibliographic databases (Rowley & Slak, 2004). Rowley and Slak (2004) considered that journal articles should form the core of any literature review. For quality purposes, it is important to select peer-reviewed articles; in other words, if they meet a certain academic standard (Knopf, 2006).

However, concerns regarding the value of literature from elite and non-elite journals can be misplaced. Indeed, non-elite journals have been increasingly cited since 1995, and leading academics regularly look for alternative outlets for their publications (Acharya et al., 2014). It is also worth mentioning that frameworks have more recently been developed to report on literature reviews. Among these frameworks are the Measurement Tool to Assess Systematic Reviews, and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (Kelly et al., 2016).

The nature of literature reviews is an extensive research topic. This study uses reviews to determine areas of research where some flaws or problems need to be addressed (Knopf, 2006). These flaws or lack of studies are also referred to as gaps in the literature, which can prevent progress in a specific field (Neria & Pickover, 2019). Different fields can have limited or extensive research gaps (Y. Liu et al., 2015). The next section of this review will further consider the nature of literature reviews, focusing on the language(s) in which the literature is published.

Domination of English Language in Academic Research: Causes, Limitations and Challenges

Despite the critical influence of the language of the publishing journals on citation counts (Bornmann et al., 2012), little attention has been given to the language in which research is published (Egger et al., 1997) or to the importance and impacts of non-English literature for research published in English (Hartling et al., 2017). However, it has been noticed for some time that literature in English is ever more critical for research published in other languages and that non-English native speakers are turning their back to their language when it comes to publications (Gingras, 1984). This trend has given prominence to academic research published in English, ahead of German and French, since the beginning of the 20th century (Hamel, 2013).

Research into literature reviews carried out by Jackson and Kuriyama (2019) in the field of medicine revealed that 34% of publications excluded non-English articles and were explicit about this in their methodology; 32% rejected non-English articles without stating this in their methodology,

and only 34% used articles regardless of the language of publication. The rejection of sources that are non-English is referred to as “English language bias” or “Tower of Babel bias” (Egger et al., 1997; Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019). Significantly, excluding non-English sources reduces the generalizability of the research results (J. L. Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019) compared to research using sources written in different languages, as multi-language research can bridge the gap between language and emotions because not all phrases can be translated (Besemer, 2004).

In practical terms, depending on the nature of the research, the language of the keywords used for searching the literature will have to be adapted. For research on international businesses conducted in the French language, Dumez (2011) suggested that when conducting the literature review, English keywords such as “organization,” “corporation,” “firm,” and “company” should be used alongside keywords in the French language. Excluded literature from other languages poses concerns regarding the rigor of the research output, as it is based on a biased sample (Konno et al., 2020).

Some types of research, such as case studies, ethnographic-based research, and action research, are not designed to be generalized (Hammersley et al., 2000; Tripp, 1985), as by definition, generalizability can only happen when the results of a study can be applied to other populations or samples (Ryan & Bernard, 2000). Indeed, when research is context specific it prevents the generalization of the findings (Cronbach, 1975). The view that the language of the literature used in a literature review plays a role in the generalization of findings is also related to the fact that to be generalized, factual accuracy and a good understanding of the context and group are vital (Maxwell, 1992). Despite this, if a method is applied in different contexts and the findings are the same, both results and findings can be generalizable to some degree (Falk & Guenther, 2006).

There is no settled consensus on the merits of using multilanguage sources when carrying out a literature review. Indeed, for Jüni et al. (2002), excluding those sources does not impact the precision of the research. Following this, Grzybowski and Kanclerz (2019) explained that English language studies are often of better quality due to the sample size, the rigor of the methodology, and the fact that they

are assessed following a blinded process. Xiao and Watson (2019) also supported the lack of a need for the use of non-English literature when conducting literature reviews. However, concerning the quality of publications in English or non-English language, it is also worth mentioning that research published in other languages than English should not be considered a lower standard (Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019) as, quite often, non-English speakers decide to publish their research in international journals, rather than national journals for visibility, prestige, and reputation (Correia & Kozak, 2022; Kozak & Kozak, 2016), and not because of the quality of national journals (Egger et al., 1997).

Using multilingual literature when conducting a review poses a certain number of challenges. First is the translation issue, which requires a strict protocol. This challenge must be undertaken because, in some fields of research, such as psychology, non-English researchers struggle to find models developed in their original language. After all, the literature in which these are developed is mainly in English (Vallerand, 1989). Other issues caused by the hegemony of English, beyond the simple reduction of linguistic diversity, are: the lack of intellectual diversity; the lack of diversity in the way research is conducted; and finally, how widespread, from a geographical and intellectual point of view, the research can be disseminated (Chanlat, 2014).

The domination of English in academic literature (Chanlat, 2014) has its roots in many causes. Among these are the fact that: (1) most journals are published in English, which influences the language of publication and the literature used in those publications; (2) native English speakers (mainly Americans and British) frequently do not speak any other languages; (3) non-native English speaker academics mainly use literature published in English, even if they do use literature published in their language, but this is not systematic; (4) in many non-English-speaking countries when academics launch a journal, the language of the journal is most commonly English (Fondin, 1979). To that list could be added: (5) the fact that the name of some (tourism) journals that were in a local language is eventually changed to an English name—for example, *Anatolia* and *Turizam* (Tourism). This trend has been mainly noticed in France, particularly in management-related research (Bacaer, 2019; Chanlat, 2014).

Source Languages and the Generalizability of Tourism Literature Reviews

Tourism research is an interdisciplinary endeavor that draws on diverse fields of study, including business, sociology, economics, psychology, geography, and planning. However, it has struggled to produce its own body of knowledge (Tribe, 1997; Tribe & Liburd, 2016). There has been a shift from conceptual papers to empirical research in tourism, with an increasing number of quantitative studies (Correia & Kozak, 2022; Kozak & Kozak, 2016). The most researched topics in tourism are governance, human activity, tourist behavior, gender, and culture. These topics are quite similar to research in hospitality, namely labor, the transformation of place (experiences), sociomaterial and sociotechnological practice, and human encounters (Lugosi, 2021).

Asian countries are becoming increasingly known for the quality and quantity of their academic research in tourism (Correia & Kozak, 2022). This finding implies that quality research is not carried out exclusively by native speakers. Having said that, as highlighted already in this study, most non-native English-speaking academics are publishing in English (Gingras, 1984). Middle Eastern countries such as Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, and Oman have now developed tourism education due to the development of their tourism industry. This should contribute to the diversification of languages literature produced, even if it is highly likely that those academics will follow the preceding paragraph's trends (Bacaer, 2019; Chanlat, 2014; Fondin, 1979).

In particular reference to the last half a century, there has been a steady growth in the number of national and international academic journals in tourism (Kozak, 2020), reaching 350. However, as Egger et al. (1997) highlighted, local academics do not publish in national journals for visibility and reputation reasons. Additionally, when they do, they mainly use English literature in their research, partly because local journals are adopting English titles to attract an international readership and pool of academic authors (Bacaer, 2019; Chanlat, 2014; Fondin, 1979).

Tourism research mainly uses place-based knowledge, meaning that the research is related to specific countries, municipalities, and places and

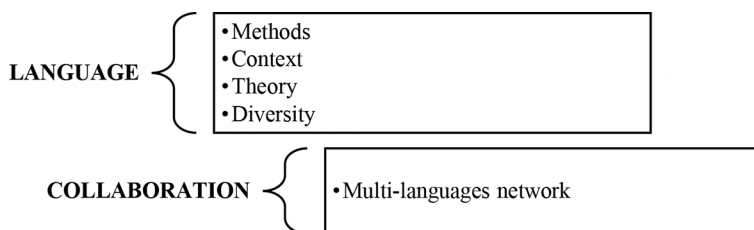


Figure 1. Research in tourism from a literature review perspective. Source: The authors (adapted from Correia & Kozak, 2021).

has limited generalizability. A solution to this problem could be cross-country research, which would enable further generalization (Correia & Kozak, 2022). The current study suggests that as tourism research becomes more international in character and the use of multilanguage articles in literature reviews should become a requirement as part of establishing their rigor, as single-language sources in such literature reviews have the potential to limit the generalizability of their results (Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019).

Additionally, literature in different languages contributes to intellectual diversity in research and methodology diversity (Chanlat, 2014). There is an increased pressure for academics to publish; hence the number of authors on paper has increased to three on average (Correia & Kozak, 2022), with the US and China being the most prolific countries in terms of publications. This aspiration could be hampered, however, by the fact that native English speakers often cannot speak other languages (Bacaer, 2019; Chanlat, 2014), and many of these same academics consider non-English literature inferior (Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019; Xiao & Watson, 2019), preventing collaboration between academics from English-speaking and non-English-speaking backgrounds.

From the analysis and discussion of Correia and Kozak (2022), this study proposes an adaptation of their research framework, focusing on the two issues identified in this section: the nature of tourism knowledge and the extent of collaboration in the field (Fig. 1).

Methodology

This section follows the recommendations of Kamble (2022). It is structured around three main

concepts relevant to qualitative research: the methodological approach, the philosophical foundation and research design, and data collection and analysis.

Methodological Approach

This study is based on case studies, an approach based on the scrutiny of secondary sources (Brunt et al., 2017) that facilitate the understanding of the “how” and “why” (Hammond & Wellington, 2013) of a phenomenon (Cihangir & Seremet, 2022). More specifically, the study is based on multiple case studies in order to facilitate comparisons (Hammond & Wellington, 2013), an approach used here in cross-cultural contexts to understand different situations and learn from them, which enables researchers to generalize their findings due to the high validity of the results (Cihangir & Seremet, 2022). Equally important, Cihangir and Seremet (2022) highlighted that, when selecting case studies, they must be similar enough to produce insights into the phenomenon studied but also sufficiently different so that they can be contrasted. To do this, this study draws on three recent literature reviews on overtourism (Ballester, 2018; Cappochi et al., 2019; Veríssimo et al., 2020), two in English and one in French. These reviews have been chosen because they are the most recent literature review on overtourism. Ballester (2018) is the only one to date in the French language.

Philosophical Foundation and Research Design

For this research, a critical linguistic postpositivist position was adopted, which suggests conducting hypothetic deductive research to: identify the causes of a phenomenon; analyze the significance

of context in the study (Xiao & Watson, 2019); and develop hypotheses and propositions that can be tested (Gannon et al., 2022). The phenomenon investigated in this study is the use of languages (other than English) in the literature review in tourism academic research. To do so, research on overtourism was used as a unit of assessment. Overtourism was selected for a range of reasons. First, overtourism was considered a major contemporary issue faced by the tourism industry before the breakout of COVID-19 (Jamal & Budke, 2020). Secondly, overtourism is a topic of research connected with many fields of tourism, such as governance, human activity, tourist behavior, gender and culture, labor, the transformation of place, sociomaterial and sociotechnological practice, and human encounters (S eraphin et al., 2018). Third, research on overtourism and related topics (tourism phobia, antitourism movements, degrowth, etc.) is frequently place specific. For instance, S eraphin et al. (2018) selected Venice (Italy) as a destination; Ku s cer and Mihali c (2019) used Ljubljana (Slovenia); Namberger et al. (2019) based their research on Munich (Germany). Last but not least, the lead author of this study has extensively published on the topic of overtourism, meaning the topic is well-understood, adding a degree of validity to this study.

Following the discussions above, we present two propositions (Ps):

Proposition 1 (P1): Population or context-specific research requires the most literature related to the language of the context and population studied. Enhanced factual accuracy and a good understanding of the context and population demonstrated by literature in the original language (Besemeres, 2004; Jackson & Kuriyama, 2019; Maxwell, 1992) can reduce the research’s bias level and therefore facilitate its generalization.

Proposition 2 (P2): Using multilanguage literature when conducting research contributes significantly to the rigor of research because it brings a broader perspective and originality to the topic (Chanlat, 2014). Indeed, any population or context-specific research (unless methodologically homogenous and replicable findings) cannot be generalized (Cronbach, 1975; Falk & Guenther, 2006; Ryan & Bernard, 2000).

The propositions of this study suggest that population, or context-specific research, needs the most literature from the language of the destination and population studied. This is in line with the fact that in tourism, most research is place specific (Correia & Kozak, 2022). These propositions are further supported by research by C. Liu et al. (2013) on Chinese ecotourism nature reserves. In that study, they used only research published in the China Academic Literature Full-text Database, “the most authoritative and comprehensive scientific database of Chinese literature” (Liu et al., 2013, p. 18). The present study will discuss these propositions in light of their implications for one field of business research, tourism, and more specifically research on overtourism. This contemporary problem affecting the tourism industry is regarded as a vital non-corona virus issue, challenging the sustainability of international tourism and on which a body of literature is beginning to emerge (Jamal & Budke, 2020; S eraphin et al., 2018).

It is important to mention that there are only three authoritative journals in tourism in the French language, *T eoros*, *Mondes du Tourisme*, and *Loisirs et Soci et  / Society and Leisure*, indicating the dominance of English in this field. Adding to this sense of marginalization, these journals publish articles in both French and English. In *T eoros*, between 1982 and 2005, articles published were mainly about experiences (352), governance (234), development (231), heritage and culture (135), and place-specific issues (123). Some of these topics are similar to the ones published by international journals that publish exclusively in English. Although these journals are French and written mainly in French, they also use English literature, as explained by Bacaer (2019) and Chanlat (2014). The aims and scope of *Loisirs et Soci et  / Society and Leisure* highlight the importance of having research published in more than one language:

The journal has identified some specific objectives: a) to make its articles accessible to two scientific cultures (French and English), b) to serve the Qu ebec, Canadian, and International scientific and professional communities, c) to plan the publication of different scientific themes, at least two in advance, and d) ensure the participation of Canadian and International researchers in the preparation of its issues. (Taylor and Francis Online, 2021)

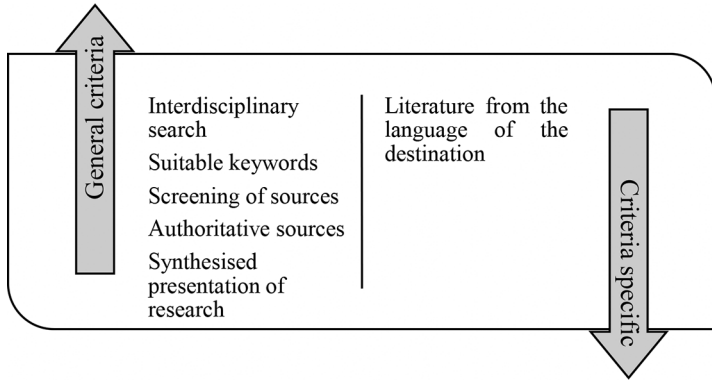


Figure 2. Conceptual framework for literature review of destination-based research. Source: The authors.

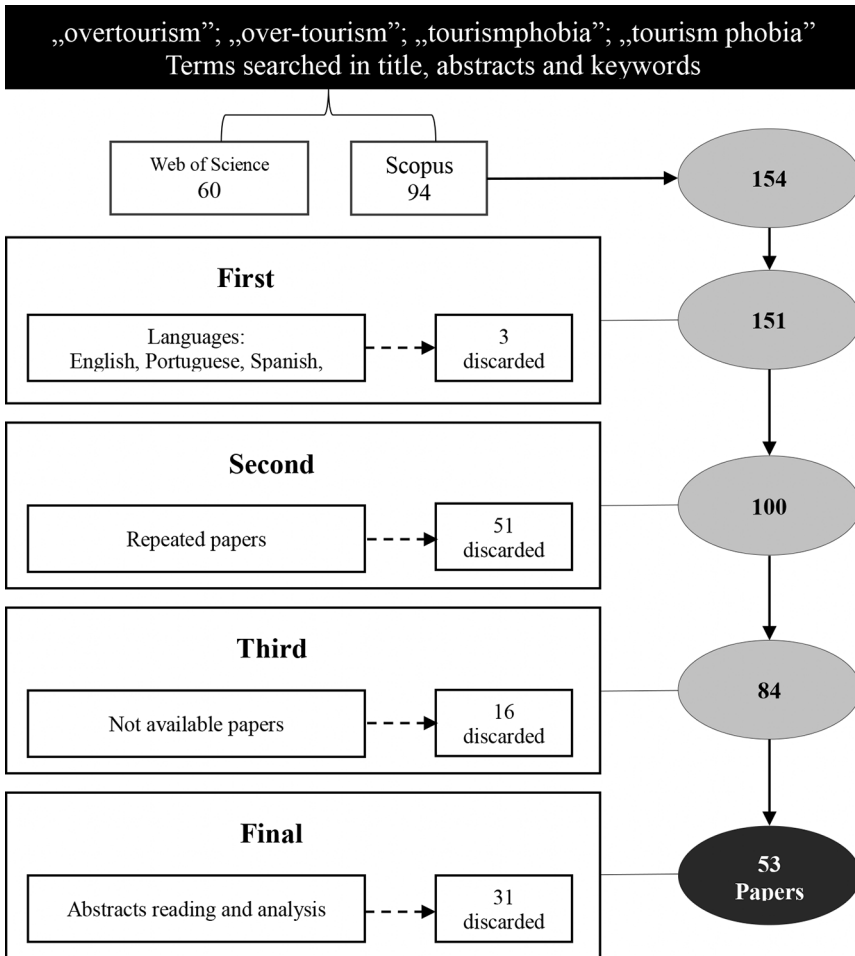


Figure 3. Review screening process. Source: The authors (adapted from Verissimo et al. 2020).

To reach a wider audience, the *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events* provides abstracts of papers published in French, Spanish, and Mandarin. However, this is very much an outlier for English language journals. Following the same trend, Spanish academic journals in tourism, such as *Cuadernos de Turismo*, publish papers in English (Potočnik Topler, 2017). The following section of this article will now turn to the chosen methods of analysis for literature reviews on a critical contemporary issue in tourism to explain how the propositions of this study were investigated empirically.

Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection falls under the second stage (identification of information needs) (Brunt et al., 2017). Regarding case studies, “six forms of data collection are recommended for case studies: interviews, direct observation, participant observation, documents, archival records, and physical artefacts” (Kamble, 2022, p. 164). In the case of this study, documents were reviewed. Data analysis can be understood as making the data accessible. It involves selecting the data, putting them together, summarizing them, sometimes applying coding techniques, and finally clustering them into themes. Displaying them is the next step and can also involve designing visual representations of the findings. Drawing conclusions is the final stage, when the findings are interpreted (Brunt et al., 2017; Hammond & Wellington, 2013; Kamble, 2022). To investigate the propositions formulated, the study applies the frameworks developed in Figures 2 and 3.

Figure 2 suggests that research in place-specific studies in tourism should consider, when conducting a literature review, synthesizing insights from sections 2 and 3 above. Place-specific research in tourism that does not comply with these two sets of criteria should be considered to suffer from significant limitations related to the language of the sources in its literature reviews and should state that in the study’s limitations. The following section considers the specific case of tourism literature published in French to illustrate how one non-English language perspective can illuminate the issues discussed thus far.

The language of articles for the literature is considered a relevant criterion when conducting the literature review (Fig. 3).

Results and Discussion

Overtourism: A Literature Review to Assess Implications and Future Perspectives (Cappochi et al., 2019)

Methods and Theory. A variety of databases were used to collect the data for this review: Google Scholar; Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN); Scopus; university libraries; e-journals; and publishing databases. The curation of publications involved selecting journals based on the topic covered. Only those discussing (a) the origins of the overtourism, (b) its implications, and (c) future perspectives were selected for the study. As a result, 29 articles were considered for the study. This study was built on the assumption that a good literature review should be: (a) comprehensive, (b) fully referenced, (c) selective, (d) relevant, (e) a synthesis of key themes and ideas, (f) balanced, (g) critical, and (h) analytical. There is no reference to the languages of the literature used when conducting the review.

Diversity. The topic of overtourism is covered from a variety of perspectives. Among these are: the origin of overtourism, its impacts on residents, heritage, policy, and planning.

Context and Language. Of the 29 articles/book chapters considered for the study, only six outputs are place specific (Table 1). However, other articles were found when cross-referencing the 29 sources, which indicated that research on overtourism is quite place specific. These destinations included: Barcelona, Venice, Isle of Skye in Scotland, Boracay in the Philippines, New York City, Amsterdam, Reykjavik, the Koh Phi Islands of Thailand, the Philippines, Dubrovnik, Santorini, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Paris, and London. The four authors of the article are all Italian. The article’s reference section included literature in Polish and Italian, although these are limited in number. English represents the vast majority of references used. All of the 29 sources selected for

Table 1
Place-Based Destinations and Authors

Authors/Year	Source	Title
Gonzalez et al. (2018)	<i>Tourism Review</i>	Overtourism: residents' perceptions of tourism impact as an indicator of resident social carrying capacity - case study of a <u>Spanish</u> heritage town
Séraphin et al. (2018)	<i>Journal of Destination Marketing and Management</i>	Overtourism and the fall of <u>Venice</u> as a Destination
Rangus et al. (2018)	<i>Responsible Hospitality: Inclusive, Active, Green</i>	Overtourism and the green policy of <u>Slovenian</u> Tourism
Pechlaner et al. (2019)	<i>International Journal of Tourism Cities</i>	Joint responsibility and understanding of resilience from a Destination Marketing Organisation perspective – an analysis of different situations in <u>Bavarian</u> tourism destinations
Pinke-Sziva et al. (2019)	<i>International Journal of Tourism Cities</i>	Overtourism and the night-time economy: A case study of <u>Budapest</u>
Benner (2019)	Heidelberg University—MPRA Paper No. 92213	From overtourism to sustainability: A research agenda for qualitative tourism development in the <u>Adriatic</u>

Note. Source: The authors (adapted from Capocchi et al., 2019).

their study were published in international journals published in the English language.

Only one was published in a non-English journal (*Revista de Turismo y Patrimonio Cultural*) by a non-English native speaker. As for the authors of the 29 sources, the vast majority of them are non-native English speakers. In the case of the place-based articles, at least one of the authors is native to the country or has lived and mastered the language and culture of the country (Table 1).

Overtourism and Tourismphobia: A Systematic Literature Review (Verissimo et al., 2020)

Methods and Theory. Data within this study were collected using two databases: Web of Science and Scopus. Using the approach described in Figure 3, 53 publications were included, of which 22 used a qualitative approach, 14 a quantitative approach, 8 mixed-methods, and 9 were theoretical.

Diversity. Research on overtourism covers a wide range of topics. Among these are sustainability, impacts on destinations, and strategies to tackle overtourism.

Context and Language. Research publications on overtourism in this review were primarily based on popular destinations such as Barcelona, Venice, Dubrovnik, Budapest, and Porto. For this study, the

language criteria (English, Portuguese, Spanish, or Italian) of publication used for the literature review were considered important for the rigor of the review conducted. The study also reveals that for research on overtourism, which is a place-specific topic, most of the authors are from non-English-speaking countries. Indeed, very often, place-based case studies are written by academics from the country. The non-English-speaking countries the authors were from included: Spain, France, Portugal, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Japan, and the Netherlands. Total Local Citation Scores, and Total Global Citation Scores, put Spain first. Out of 10 countries used for both rankings, the UK is the only English-speaking country.

In this study, there were non-English publications in the reference section, although they were limited. These were also mainly written in English.

Barcelone face au tourisme de masse: « tourismophobie » et vivre ensemble (Ballester, 2018)

Using *Téoros*, *Mondes du Tourisme*, and *Losirs et Société / Society and Leisure*, as sources, only one publication on overtourism and related topics (such as tourismphobia) has been found. Indeed, the article, *Barcelone face au tourisme de masse: « tourismophobie » et vivre ensemble*, written by Ballester (2018), is a place-specific article based on Barcelona. Events have been identified as the

major reason for overtourism in this destination. As a result of the increasing number of visitors, antitourism movements led by locals have arisen. This overtourism phenomenon also contributed to the development of gentrification of the city. This article, written in French, is based on a majority of references in French and Spanish (English references represent a minority of the references).

Methods and Theory. This article, as opposed to the two previously outlined, is not a literature review on overtourism, but a case study on a destination as a victim of overtourism (and tourism phobia), as none could be found in the French language. This study is based on both a literature review and an ethnographic approach (the author was immersed in the life of locals). The reference section includes articles from academic journals, trade magazines, government reports, and one doctorate thesis.

Diversity. Overtourism and tourism phobia are discussed from different angles: the reasons for overtourism (events are highlighted), the consequences of overtourism (tourism phobia; gentrification), and solutions for overcoming overtourism (e.g., better governance and urban planning).

Context and Language. The focus of the study is Barcelona. As for the literature used to write the article, most of the sources are in the French language, followed by Spanish language sources. English-based literature is limited.

Conclusion and Implications

There is no consensus concerning the importance of using multilanguage references in a literature review on place-specific research, such as overtourism. Our analysis demonstrated how research carried out in overtourism is mainly done by nationals from the selected destination and often uses limited literature published in the language of the selected destination. Overall, research on overtourism fits into the frameworks developed in Figures 2 and 3. As a result, they can be said to be authentic, intellectually sound, and generalizable (within the destination studied and relatable

destinations). Place-specific and customer-based research are similar because of an intimate knowledge of the destination, and such customers are the best informants. Personal attachment of the researcher to the destination is a key feature of this type of research, related to positive feelings and/or happiness (Adie, 2019; Jaakson, 1986).

This study has argued the same for place-based research, academics, and literature displaying an intimate knowledge of these destinations. Last, but not least, it is worth highlighting that literature and authors that have a connection with the destination are bringing three key elements in, namely: “ethos,” which is credibility and trustworthiness; “pathos,” which is about emotion; and finally “logos,” which is about the ability to convey a message. All three elements are put together to play a role in the ability of a message to convince the targeted audience (Walters & Mair, 2012).

The findings of this research support and even reinforce the claim that, in tourism, there is a need for more interdisciplinary research (Correia & Kozak, 2022; Kozak & Kozak, 2017; Okumus et al., 2018). Interdisciplinarity in tourism is the collaboration among disciplines, which enables each field to go beyond its boundaries and assumptions to enrich its methodology. This is due to interdisciplinary research analyses and synthesis that can harmonize the common and coherent points among disciplines. Interdisciplinary is not to be mistaken for multidisciplinary, which draws knowledge from different disciplines while staying within the boundary of its field (Okumus et al., 2018). Practically, interdisciplinarity in tourism could happen either through formal collaboration, which involves coauthorships of papers, copresentation at conferences, etc., or through informal collaboration, which is about conversations with colleagues, editors, etc. (Okumus et al., 2018). Collaboration is a productive way to advance knowledge in tourism (Ohe et al., 2017).

For research on overtourism, academics from the targeted country and academics from other countries could work together and share expertise; that way, language would be less of a problem, it could reduce any silo approaches within a topic, and could reduce potential bias, making the research even more generalizable. This is all the more important to avoid issues becoming lost in translation, mainly when it has already been established that “tourism and hospitality research is frequently

cross-language in nature; yet, English is the most used language to disseminate research findings” (Esfehani & Walters, 2018, p. 3158). Place-specific research could be said to support interdisciplinary research, and interdisciplinarity contributes to making place-specific research more generalizable.

Literature reviews are an important part of the research process. Despite the importance of this stage, there is no formal agreement regarding what should be considered when conducting a literature review. Academics agree on a roadmap of primary steps. The use of languages as an element to consider in literature reviews is mixed: it is not discussed at all, it is considered unimportant, or it has a central focus. However, this study argues that it is important to consider, particularly for the scholarly rigor employed and generalizability reasons.

Expanding the importance of language in literature reviews would contribute to the interdisciplinarity of business research, which is arguably limited at present. Despite the focus on tourism research here, it is believed that the findings can be applied to research in other areas where cross-language literature is needed. The main contributions of this study are as follows: (1) we show that place-specific research, to be entirely compelling and immersive, needs to be carried out using cross-language literature; (2) we provide evidence that place/organization/type of individual-based research, based on cross-language literature and interdisciplinarity, is contributing to the rigor of a literature review, supported through their focus on the trinity of ethos, pathos, and logos.

A natural limitation of this study is the focus on tourism, overtourism, and the languages of our extended examples. However, we recognize that future research could examine specifically the frameworks developed in this research within a different discipline or field of research as well as other languages.

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