

# Concept Cartoons in Mathematics Education: A Bibliometric Analysis (1999-2025)

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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the place and prevalence of concept cartoons in education using bibliometric analysis to reveal research in mathematics education. Concept cartoons are effective teaching tools used to uncover misconceptions about concepts and support meaningful learning. Within the scope of the research, 58 academic publications published between 1999 and 2025 were analyzed using the keywords "concept cartoon" and "concept cartoons" in the Web of Science (WoS). The data were analyzed using keyword, author, citation, bibliographic match, and co-citation analyses using the VOSviewer software. Based on the analysis, it was determined that most concept cartoons were concentrated in the field of science education, while a limited number were found in the field of mathematics education. Despite Turkey's 30 publication areas and significant contributions, international collaboration was observed to be quite limited. Furthermore, it was determined that common theoretical references between relationships were weak, and a holistic structure in the literature was not formed. Among the most cited studies are those by Keogh and Naylor (1999), Chin (2009), and Cavagnetto (2010). This distribution of concept cartoons reveals the strategic evolution of scientific literacy and its contribution to its distribution. This scientific study demonstrates the pedagogical potential of concept cartoons, highlighting the development of interdisciplinary approaches to mathematics education and the continued development of international collaboration.

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## 1. Introduction

During the education and training processes, new information is constantly discovered in line with individuals' desire to access information, paving the way for the emergence and definition of new concepts. Indeed, an individual's sense of curiosity and motivation to learn trigger the search for information, and in this process, the formation of conceptual structures accelerates (Loewenstein, 1994). Concepts, one of the fundamental building blocks of learning, are of great importance for an individual's mental development, knowledge construction, and

meaning-making processes (Demirkan, 2024). Teaching concepts accurately and effectively is important not only for individual learning, but also for the development of higher-order thinking skills, the construction of scientific thought, and the elimination of conceptual misunderstandings (Çetiner, 2022; Erdağ, 2011; Kaplan et al., 2014).

Concept teaching is a multidimensional process that examines how learning occurs, how it is structured in the mind, and the extent to which learned concepts are acquired correctly (Ülgen, 2004). While this process is considered as learning through observable reactions and repetition in the behaviorist approach; According to the cognitive approach, the construction of mental schemas is defined as the integration and structuring of new information with prior knowledge (Alkan, 2010; Tokcan, 2015). Concept teaching has a spiral structure that progresses from the concrete to the abstract (Sarpkaya-Aktaş & Çinkılıç, 2015) and includes cognitive steps such as attention, recognition, classification, and generalization (Dündar, 2007; Ergün & Özsüer, 2006; Köşker, 2024; Senemoğlu, 2004).

In this process, conceptual learning, a natural outcome of concept teaching, is defined as the process by which students not only recognize concepts but also structure these concepts meaningfully, use them in different contexts, and integrate them with their mental schemas (Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001; Ergün & Özsüer, 2006; Kaplan et al., 2014; Novak, 1990). Conceptual learning enables students to make knowledge permanent and transferable by establishing relationships between concepts, rather than simply memorizing it. In this context, concept teaching becomes not only a process of transferring knowledge but also a dynamic learning process that encompasses how concepts are interpreted in the student's mind, which mental models they are associated with, and how these structures change over time (Çetiner, 2022). Supporting conceptual learning, particularly within the framework of a meaningful learning approach, plays a critical role in preventing misconceptions and developing higherorder thinking skills (Ausubel, 1968; Novak & Cañas, 2006). However, especially in fields like mathematics, where abstract concepts are prevalent, the nature of concepts can pose various challenges for students during the teaching process (Cetiner, 2022; Gül, 2023; Karaduman & Ceviz, 2018; Smith, 2019; Şengül & Dereli, 2013; Uğurel & Moralı, 2006). In this context, the use of effective, innovative, and student-centered methods and techniques in conceptual teaching becomes essential (Erdoğan & Özsevgeç, 2012).

Accordingly, the Turkish Century Education Model Mathematics Curriculum (MEB, 2024) aims not only to enable students to acquire knowledge but also to actively participate in the learning process, identify misconceptions, and gain intellectual awareness to address these misconceptions. The complementary assessment tools included in the program determine students' knowledge levels, deficiencies, and conceptual misunderstandings. Accordingly, various studies have indicated that meaningful learning can be supported through methods such as self-assessment, peer assessment, worksheets, and learning journals (Güneş et al., 2025; İnce, 2023). This process aims to enable students to analyze visual and spatial relationships through the structures they create and to gain awareness of their own learning processes (Atasoy & Eryılmaz Toksoy, 2015; Kuzu et al., 2025; Pericleous, 2022).

In this context, identifying and correcting misconceptions is of critical importance for the quality of learning (Aşık, 2017; Göksu, 2014; Sancar, 2019). Especially in the teaching of abstract concepts, students need to access concepts not only through memorization but also through cognitive processes such as comparison, questioning, and discussion (Ersoy & Türkkan, 2010; Kaplan et al., 2014). At this point, tools such as concept cartoons, which allow students to

discover and correct their misconceptions, come to the fore (Arıkurt, 2014; Aşık, 2017; Budak, 2019; Şengül & Dereli, 2013; Uğurel & Moralı, 2006; Yin Yin et al., 2016; Yürekli, 2020).

Concept cartoons are effective teaching tools that allow students to recognize their misconceptions and obtain accurate information by comparing alternative ideas (Bektik, 2025; Budak, 2019; İnce, 2023; Karaduman & Ceviz, 2018; Budak & Şengül, 2021; Şengül & Üner, 2010). Developed by Keogh and Naylor (1999), concept cartoons are visual materials first used in the field of science in the context of daily life. While some ideas in these cartoons reflect scientific truths, others represent common misconceptions among students. This allows students to express their own thoughts through the characters' discourses and discuss their ideas without fear of making mistakes (Türkoğuz & Cin, 2013; Naylor & Keogh, 2013; Pericleous, 2022). The inquiry environment created in this process facilitates meaningful learning (Demir, 2008; Kabapınar, 2005).

Concept cartoons capture students' attention through visual-visual stimuli; they direct students to think, question, and defend scientific truths through the contradictory expressions of different characters (Atasoy et al., 2020; Chin & Teou, 2009; Erdağ, 2011). Research shows that these materials are effective in increasing students' academic achievement, identifying and correcting misconceptions, developing their self-confidence, and ensuring the permanence of learning (Balım et al., 2008; Bayhan, 2023; Budak & Şengül, 2021; Çetinkaya, 2019; Demir, 2021; Erdağ, 2011; Köşker, 2024; Şengül & Dereli, 2013; Uğurel et al., 2013). Furthermore, Kabapınar (2009) concluded in his study that concept cartoons are more effective when they consist of named characters and are prepared in the form of worksheets.

In mathematics education, it is not enough for students to possess procedural knowledge alone; for permanent and meaningful learning, students need to establish connections between concepts and operations (Van de Walle, 1989; Hiebert & Carpenter, 1992; Baki, 1998). The Turkish Century Education Model Mathematics Curriculum states that students are expected to "...effectively use the mathematical field skills of mathematical reasoning, mathematical problem solving, mathematical representation, working with data and data-based decision making, and working with mathematical tools and technology; and to reflect conceptual, social-emotional learning, and literacy skills, along with mathematics field skills, in a holistic manner, both in the process and outcomes of mathematics learning..." (MEB, 2024). However, in traditional teaching methods, students often experience superficial learning and achieve temporary success with memorized knowledge. This negatively affects attitudes toward learning and leads to the emergence of misconceptions (Bektik, 2025; Şengül & Dereli, 2013; Oklun & Toluk, 2005).

In this context, concept cartoons stand out as an effective alternative, especially in teaching abstract concepts such as mathematics and science education. In studies conducted in Turkey, Şengül (2011) found that concept cartoons positively affected 7th-grade students' perceptions of their self-efficacy levels toward mathematics; Yılmaz (2018) stated that instruction with the 5E model supported by concept cartoons, Gül (2023) stated that teaching with concept cartoons-supported STEM activities affected the mathematics achievement and attitudes of middle school students, and Budak and Şengül (2021) stated that scripted concept cartoons positively affected the dimensional estimation skills of 5th and 6th grade students. Baynazoğlu (2019) reported that 6th-grade students produced higher-quality arguments over time in the geometry sub-learning area of mathematics courses using argumentation-based concept cartoons, and Budak (2019) stated that scripted concept cartoons positively affected 5th- and

6th-grade students' dimensional estimation skills. Sancar (2019) and Karaca (2019) reported that concept cartoons used in teaching the subject of polygons attracted students' attention and increased their achievement. Kılıç (2020) used concept cartoons to evaluate 8th-grade students' learning of transformation geometry according to the SOLO taxonomy. Kaplan et al. (2014) found that concept cartoons had a positive effect on 8th-grade students' understanding of square roots, Yürekli (2020) on 7th-grade students' understanding of integers, İnce (2023) on 7th-grade students' understanding of patterns, and Bektik (2025) on 8th-grade students' understanding of exponentials. In a content analysis conducted by Yıldız (2023), it was determined that 28 articles published in Turkey since 2006 mostly focused on the areas of "numbers and operations" and "geometry and measurement" and generally offered positive learning outcomes.

In the international literature, studies conducted in the field of science—such as conceptual learning, revealing and eliminating misconceptions, and the effects of concept cartoons supported by web-based and various applications on science achievement—are noteworthy (Atchia & Gunowa, 2025; Budak & Şengül, 2021; Kruit et al., 2025; Minárechová, 2016). Studies in the field of mathematics show that concept cartoons are used to assess pre-service teachers' subject-based knowledge (e.g., rational numbers, problems, fractions) and pedagogical content knowledge (Depaepe et al., 2018; Samková & Tichá, 2017; Samková, 2018). In Felix and Roberts' (2024) study, by using online-designed concept cartoons in a 7th-grade mathematics course, students were encouraged to engage in exploratory conversations, and positive improvements were observed in their problem-solving approaches and conceptual understanding during this process. Pericleous (2022) used concept cartoons to improve the understanding of number lines in second-grade primary school students.

The literature demonstrates that concept cartoons are particularly effective in the context of inquiry-based learning, conceptual change, peer interaction and communication skills, and critical and creative thinking (Aygün et al., 2020; Chin & Teou, 2009; Felix & Roberts, 2024; Keogh & Naylor, 1999; Yin Yin et al., 2016).

In recent years, analyzing research in education has become crucial for understanding research trends, collaboration networks, and scientific production. In this context, bibliometric analysis is a powerful method that enables the systematic examination of academic publications in a given field by year, author, country, citation count, and keyword (Donthu et al., 2021). This method allows the identification of the development of a field, research gaps, and priorities that will guide future studies (Verma et al., 2020).

The purpose of this study is to examine academic publications focusing on concept cartoons in education, located in the Web of Science (WoS) database, using bibliometric analysis to determine their place in mathematics education. It analyzes variables such as the distribution of relevant publications by year, the most published authors, the most frequently used keywords, subject areas, citation counts, and international collaborations. This provides an overview of academic studies in the field of concept cartoons and offers guidance for future research in this area.

#### 2. Method

## 2.1. Design

This research is a descriptive study that aims to systematically examine academic publications on concept cartoons in the field of education. The study employs bibliometric analysis, a method used to evaluate academic publications related to a specific topic or field through numerical data. This approach allows for the examination of publication trends, collaboration networks, citation analyses, and keyword relationships (Ding, 2011; Donthu et al., 2021).

## 2.2. Sample

In this study, criterion sampling, one of the purposive sampling methods, was used to determine the academic publications to be examined. Criterion sampling is a sampling strategy that enables the deliberate selection of information sources based on specific predetermined criteria (Patton, 2018).

Accordingly, the following criteria were used for the inclusion of publications in the study:

- Being indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) database,
- Containing at least one of the keywords "concept cartoon" or "concept cartoons,"
- Inclusion of these keywords in the title, abstract, or keyword fields.

Based on these criteria, a search of the Web of Science (WoS) database was conducted on August 1, 2025, using the terms "concept cartoon" or "concept cartoons." This search yielded a total of 96 publications, which constitute the sample of the study. The flowchart detailing the data selection process is presented in Figure 1.

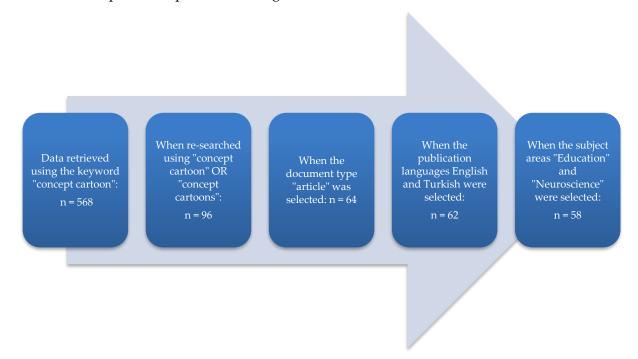


Figure 1. Data selection flow diagram (WoS, August 2025)

When the WoS database was filtered specifically for articles on concept cartoons, a total of 58 publications were found between 1999 and 2025. The distribution of these publications by year is shown in Figure 2.

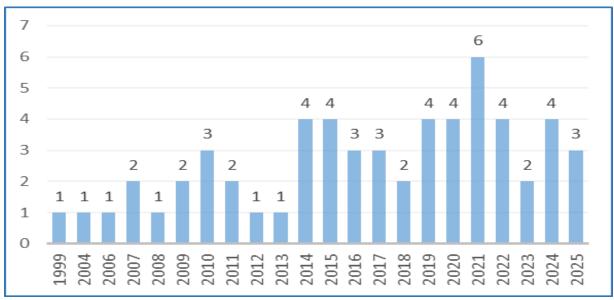


Figure 2. Number of publications by year (WoS, August 2025)

#### 2.3. Measures

## 2.3.1. The Web of Science (WoS)

The Web of Science (WoS) database was used as the data collection tool in this study. Established in the early 1960s for citation tracking, WoS is a comprehensive database that contains multidisciplinary, internationally peer-reviewed publications and is currently managed by Clarivate Analytics. As a respected reference source in its field, WoS facilitates citation analysis and the measurement of academic impact for scientific publications (Falagas et al., 2008).

This database is frequently used for literature reviews and bibliometric analyses across a wide range of disciplines, from the social sciences to the physical sciences. The bibliographic data—such as authors, titles, keywords, abstracts, citation counts, and journals—obtained through searches based on the keywords identified for this study constituted the primary data source for the analysis. The extracted data were exported in .txt format and analyzed using VOSviewer software (Version 1.6.20).

#### 2.4. Procedure

As part of the bibliometric analysis, academic publications accessed through the Web of Science (WoS) database were systematically examined based on predefined criteria. Filtering was carried out according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Data from the selected publications were analyzed using VOSviewer software (Version 1.6.20), and the findings were visualized and interpreted through bibliometric maps.

## 2.5. Data Analysis

In this study, 58 academic publications obtained from the Web of Science (WoS) database were analyzed through bibliometric methods using VOSviewer software (Version 1.6.20). Prior to the analysis, the data were cleaned, and author names and keywords were merged and standardized.

Basic bibliometric features—such as publication year, authors, keywords, journals, citation counts, and references—were evaluated. Relationships among these features were analyzed and visualized with VOSviewer, revealing clusters, collaboration networks, and thematic densities. These methods contribute to understanding the interactions among studies and the dynamics of the field's development (Van Eck & Waltman, 2013).

As a result, trends in the use of concept cartoons in education, prominent themes, and influential publications were identified, and the overall structure of the field was mapped.

#### 2.6. Ethical Declaration

This study was conducted solely through a bibliometric analysis of previously published academic articles indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) database. No data were collected directly from human participants, and only publicly available literature was utilized. Therefore, this research does not involve human subjects and does not require ethics committee approval.

#### 3. Results

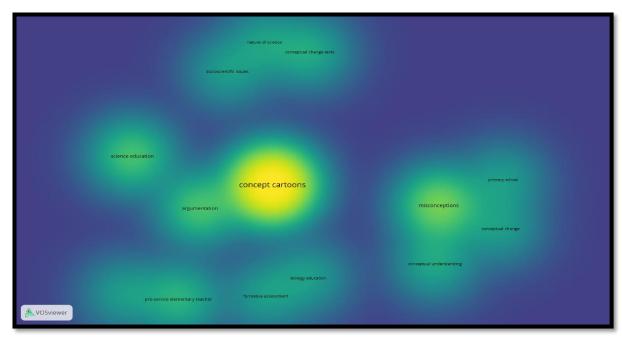
In this section of the study, the findings from the analysis of studies addressing concept cartoons found in the Web of Science (WoS) database, using the VOSviewer software, are presented separately.

## Keywords

When the WoS data was filtered for the purposes of this study, it was expected that the most frequently used keyword among the studies published between 1999 and 2025 would be "concept cartoons." The 176 keywords initially identified were subjected to a data-cleaning process in which expressions with similar meanings were merged, resulting in a total of 159 distinct keywords.

For example, expressions representing the same school level, such as "middle school 7th grade students" and "7th grade students," were combined under a single keyword.

When the analysis was limited to keywords used three or more times, 14 keywords remained. A density visualization based on keyword frequency was generated using VOSviewer and is presented in Figure 3. In the visual, brighter colors indicate higher word density.

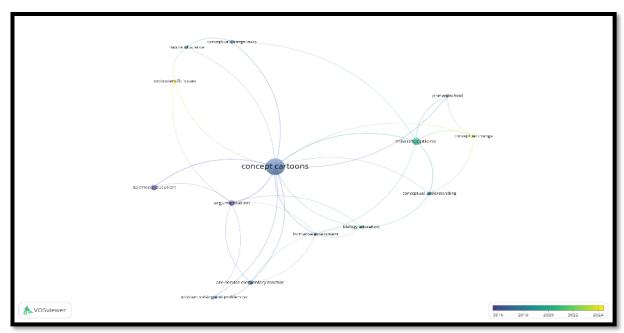


**Figure 3.** Keyword density visualization (WoS, August 2025)

These 14 keywords were grouped into three separate clusters. The keywords with the highest link strength within these clusters were as follows:

- Concept cartoons (f = 33; link strength = 20)
- Misconceptions (f = 10; link strength = 8)
- Conceptual change texts (f = 4; link strength = 4)

A network visualization showing the distribution of keywords by publication year is presented in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** Keyword network visualization (WoS, August 2025)

Upon examining Figure 4, it becomes evident that the keywords "conceptual change" and "socioscientific issues" have gained prominence in publications appearing after 2023. This suggests that concept cartoons are not only used to identify misconceptions but also have the potential to foster deeper and more enduring scientific understanding by encouraging students to question their existing knowledge. Interest in research exploring this direction appears to be increasing (Atchia & Gunowa, 2025; Kruit et al., 2025).

Moreover, recent studies indicate that concept cartoons are used not only in science instruction but also in contexts involving ethical, social, and environmental aspects of science. This trend may reflect a growing interest in fostering higher-order skills such as critical thinking, decision-making, and scientific literacy through instructional materials.

## References

A citation analysis was conducted using VOSviewer to examine the citation frequency of sources in the literature. A total of 33 sources were identified. Selection criteria included receiving at least 25 citations, resulting in the identification of eight prominent sources. The five most frequently cited sources are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Most cited sources (WoS, August 2025)

Rank	Sources	Number of citations
1	Review of Educational Research	237
2	International Journal of Science Education	223
3	Research in Science Education	79
4	Educational Research	44
5	Eğitim ve Bilim-Education and Science	34

#### Authors

A total of 126 unique author names were extracted from the 58 publications analyzed using VOSviewer. During the data-cleaning process, different spellings of the same author were standardized and merged under a single name.

For instance, "arikurt, elif" and "arikurt, e." were combined under the unified entry "arikurt, e." Following this process, the number of unique author names used in the analysis was reduced to 118.

When the dataset was filtered to include only authors with two or more publications, 21 authors remained in the final analysis. The number of publications (documents), citation count (citations), and total link strength values for the top five most productive authors are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Most published authors (WoS, August 2025)

Rank	Author	Number of publications	Number of citations	Total link strength
1	Samkova, L.	4	23	8
2	Atasoy, Ş.	3	17	31
3	Bredeweg, B.	3	14	12
4	Kruit, P. M.	3	14	12
5	Durukan, U. G.	3	8	8

These 21 authors were grouped into four clusters. The authors with the highest total link strength within these clusters were:

- Keogh, B. (link strength = 45)
- Chin, C. (link strength = 28)
- Taşlıdere, E. (link strength = 15)
- Atasoy, Ş. (link strength = 31)

The top five most cited studies are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Most cited study (WoS, August 2025)

Rank	Author	Title of Study	Number of Citations
1	Cavagnetto, 2010	Argument to foster scientific literacy: A review of argument interventions in k–12 science contexts	237
2	Keogh & Naylor, 1999	Concept cartoons, teaching and learning in science: An evaluation	156
3	Naylor, Keogh & Downing, 2007	Argumentation and primary science	79
4	Kinchin, 2004	Investigating students' beliefs about their preferred role as learners	44
5	Chin & Teou, 2009	Using concept cartoons in formative assessment: Scaffolding students' argumentation	37

The most frequently cited studies in the analysis reveal that concept cartoons are powerful instructional tools that support not only conceptual teaching but also students' skills in argumentation, critical thinking, and scientific literacy. Keogh and Naylor (1999) and Chin and Teou (2009) emphasize that concept cartoons help students express their thoughts and provide opportunities for discussion-based learning environments. Cavagnetto (2010) evaluated concept cartoons as tools that promote scientific argumentation at the K–12 level. These findings demonstrate that concept cartoons serve multidimensional pedagogical functions aligned with contemporary educational approaches, particularly in science education.

#### Countries

An examination of country-level collaboration using VOSviewer software shows that, among 18 countries, 8 met the threshold of having at least two publications. A network visualization of country-level publication collaboration is presented in Figure 5, where colors indicate clusters and node sizes represent the number of publications.

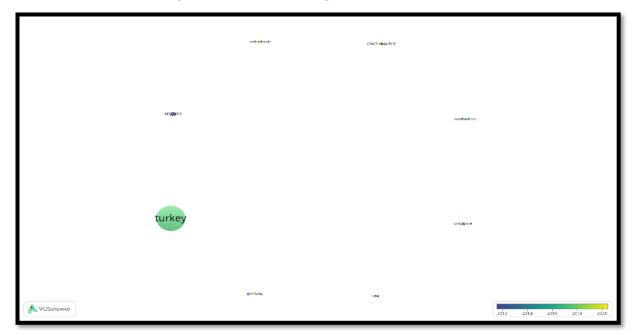


Figure 5. Network map of countries' publication collaboration (WoS, August 2025)

As seen in Figure 5, 8 countries have published on concept cartoons in the field of education; however, no co-authorship links were found among them (link strength = 0). Turkey is the most prolific country, with 30 publications, followed by the United Kingdom (n = 5) and the Czech Republic (n = 4). These results indicate that research in this area is largely conducted at a national level, with limited international collaboration.

Furthermore, a significant portion of the literature originates from Turkey. The fact that most of these studies were published after 2017 suggests that academic interest in concept cartoons has increased substantially in Turkey during this period.

## Bibliographic Coupling

Based on bibliographic coupling analysis conducted using VOSviewer, 19 sources with 10 or more citations were identified among the 58 sources, which were grouped into four clusters. A network visualization of these sources is presented in Figure 6.

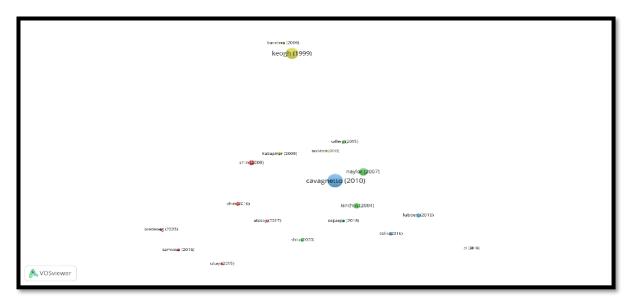


Figure 6. Bibliographic coupling network visualization of sources (WoS, August 2025)

Examination of Figure 6 reveals a total of 106 links and a total link strength of 213 among the publications, suggesting a moderate level of shared referencing. However, the relatively low number of connections implies that studies on concept cartoons are grounded in diverse theoretical frameworks and that a well-established common literature base has yet to emerge. As a result, many connection lines are absent from the network visualization.

Notably, the three studies with the highest link strengths in the bibliographic coupling analysis were Kabapinar (2009), Chin (2009), and Cavagnetto (2010). Kabapinar (2009), with a link strength of 59, is widely cited due to its focus on the role of concept cartoons in conceptual change and constructivist learning. Chin (2009), with a link strength of 47, contributed significantly through its insights into the use of concept cartoons in formative assessment. Cavagnetto (2010), which emphasizes scientific literacy and argumentation, has a link strength of 40.

These findings indicate that the literature on concept cartoons is primarily structured around themes such as conceptual learning, assessment, and scientific argumentation, which together form the most commonly shared theoretical foundation among the studies analyzed.

#### Co-citation

A co-citation analysis conducted via VOSviewer identified 2,480 references cited by the 58 studies in the dataset. When filtered to include only sources cited at least ten times, nine sources remained and were grouped into two clusters. A total of 35 connections and a combined link strength of 181 were found among these sources. The co-citation network is visualized in Figure 7.

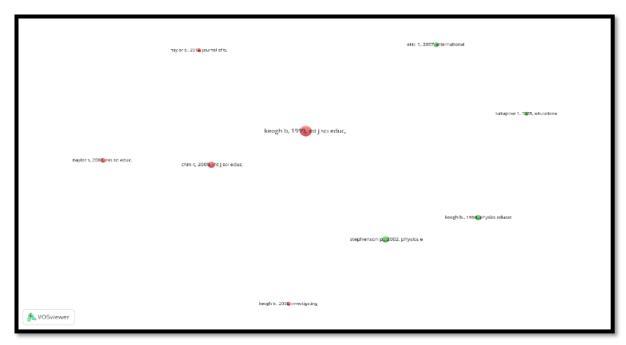


Figure 7. Co-citation network visualization (WoS, August 2025)

Figure 7 shows that while only a small number of sources related to concept cartoons in education stand out, they are co-cited to a moderate extent across studies. The relatively weak links between these sources suggest that although they are frequently referenced, they are often used in different research contexts and methodological frameworks.

Furthermore, Keogh's works from 1998, 1999, and 2000 were among the sources with the highest link strength in the co-citation analysis, indicating that Keogh is regarded as a foundational reference in the field of concept cartoons. However, the absence of link lines in the network visualization suggests that these works are predominantly cited individually rather than together in the same studies.

#### 4. Discussion, Conclusion and Suggestions

The findings of this study demonstrate that concept cartoons go beyond merely identifying misconceptions in education; they also play an effective role in supporting deep learning processes. The keywords "conceptual change" and "socioscientific issues," which have gained particular prominence in publications since 2023, suggest that concept cartoons have the potential to transform students' existing knowledge structures and are increasingly being adopted as a teaching strategy that promotes critical thinking and scientific literacy (Atchia & Gunowa, 2025; Kruit et al., 2025). This trend is similarly highlighted in Amuriddin et al.'s (2025) bibliometric analysis focusing on conceptual change. Covering the years 2004–2024, the study notes that the theme of "conceptual understanding" has become increasingly prominent in recent years. This development aligns with the growing emphasis on deep learning, problem-solving, and student-centered teaching approaches. Furthermore, the study draws attention to the rise of human-centered approaches in the thematic evolution of education.

Although this bibliometric analysis aimed to examine the use of concept cartoons in mathematics education, it is noteworthy that the findings were predominantly related to the field of science. This suggests that concept cartoons are used more widely and in greater depth in science (Atchia & Gunowa, 2024; Kaya & Demir, 2024). Studies included in the analysis found that concept cartoons are often used to assess teachers' or teacher candidates' content

knowledge in mathematics education (Depaepe et al., 2018; Samková & Tichá, 2017; Samková, 2018). A similar study conducted in Turkey examined preservice elementary school science and mathematics teachers' first impressions of concept cartoons displayed in school corridors and their impact on informal physics learning (Atasoy et al., 2020). While the study observed that preservice teachers developed positive impressions of concept cartoons, it was recommended that candidates be encouraged to produce their own cartoons on topics they find challenging. Gökmen (2020) found that preservice science teachers lacked sufficient knowledge in developing and evaluating science-mathematics integration activities designed with concept cartoons. Demir (2008) also employed concept cartoons to identify preservice science teachers' misconceptions.

These findings demonstrate that concept cartoons can be an effective tool not only in classroom teaching but also in informal learning environments. Encouraging preservice teachers—especially those who will become educators upon entering the profession—to create their own concept cartoons on challenging topics is an important step for both in-depth conceptual learning and the development of their subject matter and pedagogical knowledge. It is believed that such studies contribute to preservice teachers' construction of their understanding and enhance their ability to design effective teaching materials for their future students.

Considering these studies, it appears that the use of concept cartoons in mathematics education may not yet be as widespread as in science, or it may be more limitedly reported in the literature compared to science. Sarpkaya-Aktaş and Çinkılıç (2025), in their literature review on resolving misconceptions in mathematics education, concluded that alternative methods such as concept cartoons are effective. In this context, the rich applications of concept cartoons in science provide important examples that can be adapted to mathematics education. The multifaceted functions of concept cartoons in science—such as supporting conceptual change by correcting misconceptions (Atchia & Gunowa, 2025) and discussing socioscientific issues (e.g., genetics, nuclear energy, genetically modified organisms, alternative medical treatments, mass vaccination, global warming, experimental animals, road salting, organic farming, X-rays, landfills, space pollution) (Atasoy et al., 2022; Kruit et al., 2025)—can inspire the development of approaches to support conceptual learning in mathematics education. This suggests that the potential of concept cartoons in mathematics education has yet to be fully explored through interdisciplinary studies, and new pedagogical models can be developed through original research in this area.

In line with the analysis results, it appears that concept cartoons are mostly used in science education in Turkey and are frequently preferred, particularly in experimental studies conducted at the primary and secondary school levels (Arıkurt, 2014; Bayhan, 2023; Çetinkaya, 2019; Demir, 2021; Demirkan, 2024; Erdoğan & Özsevgeç, 2012; Gürcan, 2021; Oluk & Özalp, 2007). Similarly, there are studies addressing the elimination of subject-based misconceptions in mathematics education (Aşık, 2017; Bektik, 2025; İnce, 2023; Kaplan et al., 2014; Yürekli, 2020), development of proportional reasoning skills (Çetiner, 2022), positive contributions to mathematics achievement (Erdağ, 2011; Gül, 2023; Karaduman & Ceviz, 2018; Köşker, 2024; Sancar, 2019; Şahin, 2018; Yılmaz, 2018), and improvements in problem-solving skills (Göksu, 2014). However, despite this considerable academic output, the absence of joint international publications reveals that international cooperation in Turkey's studies remains limited. This indicates a lack of comparative studies on how concept cartoons are implemented across

different education systems and highlights the need to increase research based on international collaboration in this field in the future.

This study found that publications in the field of concept cartoons are largely Turkey-centric and that cross-national collaboration remains limited. Turkey is the most productive country with 30 publications; however, no international co-authorships were identified. Similarly, in a bibliometric study on conceptual change, Turkey ranks first with 36 articles (Amuriddin et al., 2025). These findings highlight Turkey's strong academic engagement in science education, particularly in areas such as conceptual change and concept learning.

The fact that the studies with the highest link strength in the analysis were those of Kabapınar (2009), Chin (2009), and Cavagnetto (2010) indicates that research on concept cartoons is largely grounded in literature concerning conceptual change, evaluation, and scientific literacy. Similar studies conducted in Turkey, although limited in number within the field of mathematics education, demonstrate the potential of concept cartoons in fostering conceptual change. For example, studies utilizing concept cartoons include: Kılıç (2020), who assessed the learning status of 8th-grade students based on the SOLO taxonomy; Aygün et al. (2020), who examined 5th-grade students' use of mathematical concepts; Baynazoğlu (2019), who facilitated 6th-grade students in producing more meaningful arguments; Budak (2019), who enhanced quantificational estimation skills in 5th- and 6th-grade students; and Dereli (2008), who concluded that concept cartoons positively influenced 7th-grade students' mathematical achievement, attitudes toward mathematics, and knowledge retention concerning integers. Conversely, Yağıcı's (2019) study on 3rd-grade students' attitudes and anxieties toward mathematics and Güler et al.'s (2013) investigation of 6th-grade students' academic achievement and attitudes in learning numbers found no significant effect of concept cartoons, diverging from the other studies' results.

In the co-citation analysis, lowering the citation threshold to ten resulted in the inclusion of nine sources; however, no direct connection lines were established among them. This suggests that studies on concept cartoons tend to cite the same sources infrequently in conjunction. While certain sources are repeatedly cited across the literature, their lack of co-citation indicates the absence of a common theoretical framework or cohesive theoretical integrity in the field. This finding implies that research on concept cartoons is conducted on largely independent bases across various countries, disciplines, and educational levels, underscoring the need for more integrative and unifying studies in the domain.

Among the publications with the highest link strength in the co-citation analysis, three studies by Keogh from 1998, 1999, and 2000 are particularly notable. These works represent a coherent research strand that spans from establishing the theoretical foundations of concept cartoons to their practical application in classrooms. The 1998 study first defined concept cartoons within a constructivist learning framework; the 1999 article evaluated the method's impact on teaching processes and its role in facilitating conceptual change; and the 2000 short report reinforced previous findings by examining the method's classroom validity through teacher practice. These complementary studies have been cited for different aspects in the literature, solidifying Keogh's status as a pioneer in the field. However, the fact that these studies tend to be cited independently rather than collectively has led to weak network connections in the co-citation analysis. This suggests that researchers address Keogh's contributions from diverse perspectives but do not often cite them together within the same studies.

This study has certain limitations. Since the analysis relies exclusively on the Web of Science database, important studies indexed elsewhere may have been omitted. Additionally, only journal articles were considered; books, theses, and conference papers were excluded from the analysis. The technical constraints and features of the VOSviewer software also influenced the scope and outcomes of the bibliometric analysis. Despite these limitations, the study provides a valuable overview of publication trends and thematic developments regarding the use of concept cartoons in education.

All these findings demonstrate the potential of concept cartoons to enhance conceptual learning in mathematics education. However, a systematic and widespread approach, comparable to that seen in science education, has not yet emerged. This underscores the need for well-developed, theory-driven research specifically focused on mathematics education.

# Matematik Eğitiminde Kavram Karikatürleri: Bibliyometrik Analiz (1999-2025)

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Ö

Bu çalışmanın amacı, kavram karikatürlerinin eğitimdeki yeri ve etkisini bibliyometrik analiz yöntemiyle inceleyerek matematik eğitiminde kullanımını ortaya koymaktır. Kavram karikatürleri, öğrencilerin kavramsal yanılgılarını ortaya çıkarmak ve anlamlı öğrenmeyi desteklemek amacıyla kullanılan etkili öğretim araçlarından biridir. Araştırma kapsamında, Web of Science (WoS) veri tabanında "concept cartoon" ve "concept cartoons" anahtar kelimeleriyle yapılan taramada, 1999-2025 yılları arasında yayımlanmış 58 akademik yayın analiz edilmiştir. Veriler VOSviewer yazılımı kullanılarak anahtar kelime, yazar, atıf, bibliyografik eşleşme ve ortak atıf analizleriyle değerlendirilmiştir. Analiz sonuçlarına göre, karikatürlerine yönelik çalışmaların büyük çoğunluğunun fen eğitimi alanında yoğunlaştığı, buna karşın matematik eğitimi alanında sınırlı sayıda çalışmanın bulunduğu belirlenmiştir. Türkiye, 30 yayınla alana en fazla katkı sağlamasına rağmen uluslararası iş birliğinin oldukça sınırlı olduğu gözlemlenmiştir. Ayrıca, çalışmalar arasında ortak kuramsal referansların zayıf olduğu ve literatürde bütüncül bir yapı oluşmadığı tespit edilmiştir. En çok atıf alan çalışmalar arasında Keogh ve Naylor (1999), Chin (2009) ve Cavagnetto (2010) yer almaktadır. Bu çalışmalar kavram karikatürlerinin kavramsal değişim, bilimsel okuryazarlık ve değerlendirme süreçlerine katkı sağladığını ortaya koymaktadır. Bu bulgular, kavram karikatürlerinin pedagojik potansiyelini ortaya koyarken; matematik eğitimi bağlamında disiplinlerarası yaklaşımların geliştirilmesi ve uluslararası iş birliğinin artırılması gerektiğini göstermektedir.

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## 1. Giriş

Eğitim-öğretim süreçlerinde bireylerin bilgiye ulaşma arzusu, sürekli yeni bilgilerin keşfine ve beraberinde yeni kavramların ortaya çıkışına neden olmaktadır. Bireyin öğrenme motivasyonu ve merak duygusu, bu sürecin temel itici güçleri olarak bilgi arayışını tetiklemekte, kavramsal yapıların gelişimini hızlandırmaktadır (Loewenstein, 1994). Öğrenmenin temel yapı taşlarından biri olan kavramlar, bireyin zihinsel gelişiminde, bilgiyi yapılandırma ve anlamlandırma süreçlerinde kritik bir rol oynamaktadır (Demirkan, 2024). Kavramların doğru ve etkili biçimde öğretimi, yalnızca bireysel öğrenme değil; aynı zamanda üst düzey düşünme becerilerinin gelişimi, bilimsel düşüncenin inşası ve kavramsal yanlış anlamaların giderilmesi açısından da büyük önem taşımaktadır (Çetiner, 2022; Erdağ, 2011; Kaplan vd., 2014).

Özellikle kavram öğretimi, öğrenmenin nasıl gerçekleştiğini ve zihinde nasıl yapılandığını ele alan çok boyutlu bir süreçtir (Ülgen, 2004). Bu süreç, davranışçı yaklaşımlarda tekrara dayalı ve gözlenebilir tepkilerle açıklanırken; bilişsel yaklaşımlarda ise bireyin ön bilgilerinin yeni bilgilerle bütünleştirilmesiyle açıklanmaktadır (Alkan, 2010; Tokcan, 2015). Kavram öğretimi

süreci, somuttan soyuta ilerleyen sarmal bir yapı arz ederken; dikkat, sınıflama, genelleme gibi bilişsel adımları içermektedir (Dündar, 2007; Köşker, 2024; Senemoğlu, 2004).

Bu noktada kavramsal öğrenme, yalnızca kavramların tanınması değil; bu kavramların anlamlı biçimde yapılandırılması, farklı bağlamlarda kullanılması ve zihinsel şemalarla bütünleştirilmesi süreci olarak tanımlanabilir (Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001; Novak, 1990). Kavramsal öğrenme, ezbere dayalı bilgiden uzak, kavramlar arası ilişkileri kurmaya dayalı, kalıcı ve transfer edilebilir bilgi düzeyine ulaşmayı hedefler. Özellikle Ausubel'in (1968) anlamlı öğrenme yaklaşımı çerçevesinde kavramsal öğrenmenin desteklenmesi, kavram yanılgılarının ortadan kaldırılması ve üst düzey düşünme becerilerinin geliştirilmesi açısından kritik önemdedir.

Ancak özellikle matematik gibi soyut kavramların yoğun olduğu disiplinlerde, kavramların doğası gereği öğrenciler kavramları tam ve doğru şekilde anlamakta zorluk yaşayabilmektedir (Çetiner, 2022; Gül, 2023; Smith, 2019). Bu nedenle geleneksel yöntemlerin ötesinde, öğrenci merkezli, sorgulama temelli ve görsel destekli öğretim araçlarına ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır (Erdoğan & Özsevgeç, 2012).

#### 2. Yöntem

Bu araştırma, nitel araştırma desenlerinden biri olan bibliyometrik analiz yöntemiyle gerçekleştirilmiştir. Çalışmanın veri seti, Web of Science (WoS) veri tabanında yer alan ve 1999–2025 yılları arasında yayımlanan 58 makaleden oluşmaktadır. Veri toplama sürecinde, "concept cartoons" anahtar kelimesi kullanılarak WoS içinde ilgili yayınlara ulaşılmış; yalnızca makale türündeki yayınlar dahil edilmiştir. Elde edilen veriler, bibliyometrik analizlerde yaygın biçimde kullanılan VOSviewer yazılımı ile analiz edilmiştir. Analizlerde anahtar kelime dağılımı, yazar iş birliği, atıf ilişkileri, ülkeler arası iş birlikleri, ortak atıf ve bibliyografik eşleşme gibi ölçütler kullanılmıştır. Ayrıca veri temizliği sürecinde eş anlamlı ya da benzer ifadeler birleştirilmiş ve analizlerde bu standardizasyon esas alınmıştır.

## 3. Bulgular

Çalışmanın bu bölümünde, Wos'ta ulaşılan kavram karikatürlerini ele alan çalışmaların VOSviewer yazılım programında analizlerine ilişkin bulgular ayrı ayrı sunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Toplam 176 anahtar kelime içerisinden veri temizliği sonrası 159 anahtar kelimeye ulaşılmıştır. En sık kullanılan anahtar kelime "concept cartoons" (f=33) olurken, bunu "misconceptions" (f=10) ve "conceptual change texts" (f=4) izlemiştir. Üçten fazla kez geçen anahtar kelimeler üzerinden yapılan analizde, 14 anahtar kelime üç farklı kümeye ayrılmıştır. Zaman serisi analizinde, 2023 sonrası yayınlarda "conceptual change" ve "socioscientific issues" kavramlarının öne çıkması, kavram karikatürlerinin pedagojik işlevlerinin çeşitlendiğini göstermektedir.

## Kaynaklar

Atıf analizinde, 33 kaynak içerisinden en az 25 atıf alan 8 kaynak öne çıkmıştır. En çok atıf alan beş kaynak, kavram karikatürlerinin kavramsal değişim, bilimsel okuryazarlık ve

değerlendirme süreçlerine katkı sağladığını vurgulamaktadır. Keogh ve Naylor (1999), Chin ve Teou (2009), ve Cavagnetto (2010) en sık atıf alan çalışmalardır.

#### Yazarlar

Toplam 126 farklı yazarın yer aldığı yayınlarda, veri temizliği sonrası 118 özgün yazar belirlenmiştir. İki ve üzeri yayına sahip 21 yazar analiz edilmiştir. En çok yayına sahip ve en yüksek bağlantı gücüne sahip yazarlar arasında Keogh, B. (bağlantı gücü=45), Chin, C. (bağlantı gücü=28), Atasoy, Ş. (bağlantı gücü=31) ve Taşlıdere, E. (bağlantı gücü=15) öne çıkmaktadır.

## Ülkeler

Ülkeler arası iş birliği analizinde, en az iki yayına sahip 8 ülkenin olduğu görülmüştür. Türkiye 30 yayın ile en üretken ülke olurken, onu İngiltere (n=5) ve Çek Cumhuriyeti (n=4) izlemiştir. Ancak bu ülkeler arasında ortak yazarlık ilişkisi bulunmamaktadır. Türkiye merkezli yayınların büyük çoğunluğu 2017 sonrası dönemde yoğunlaşmıştır.

## Bibliyografik Eşleşme

58 kaynak arasında gerçekleştirilen bibliyografik eşleşme analizinde, 19 kaynak dört ayrı kümede toplanmıştır. Kabapınar (2009), Chin (2009) ve Cavagnetto (2010), en yüksek bağlantı gücüne sahip çalışmalardır. Ancak bağlantı sayıların düşük kalması, literatürde güçlü bir ortak referans zemininin henüz oluşmadığını göstermektedir.

## Ortak Atıf Analizi

Ortak atıf analizinde 58 çalışmanın referans verdiği toplam 2480 kaynak tespit edilmiştir. Bu kaynakların içerisinden 10'dan fazla atıf alma ile sınırlandırıldığında 9 kaynak belirlenmiş, ancak aralarında güçlü bağlantı çizgileri oluşmamıştır. Bu durum, kavram karikatürlerine yönelik çalışmaların farklı bağlamlarda ve bağımsız biçimde yürütüldüğünü göstermektedir. En çok atıf alan kaynaklar arasında Keogh'un 1998, 1999 ve 2000 yıllarına ait üç çalışması yer almaktadır.

## 4. Tartışma, Sonuç ve Öneriler

Bu çalışmada elde edilen bulgular, kavram karikatürlerinin eğitimde sadece kavram yanılgılarını belirleme aracı olmanın ötesine geçerek, derinlemesine öğrenme süreçlerinde de etkili bir rol üstlendiğini göstermektedir. Özellikle 2023 sonrası yayınlarda öne çıkan "conceptual change" (kavramsal değişim) ve "socioscientific issues" (sosyobilimsel konular) anahtar kelimeleri, kavram karikatürlerinin öğrencilerin mevcut bilgi yapılarında dönüşüm yaratma potansiyeline ve eleştirel düşünme ile bilimsel okuryazarlığı teşvik eden bir strateji olarak benimsenmesine işaret etmektedir (Atchia & Gunowa, 2025; Kruit vd., 2025). Bu eğilim, Amuriddin ve ark. (2025) tarafından yapılan kavramsal değişim odaklı bibliyometrik analizle de paralellik göstermektedir.

Ancak, kavram karikatürlerinin kullanımı incelendiğinde, fen bilimlerinde daha yaygın ve derinlemesine uygulandığı; matematik eğitiminde ise daha sınırlı ve genellikle öğretmenlerin alan bilgisini değerlendirme amacıyla kullanıldığı görülmektedir (Depaepe vd., 2018; Samková & Tichá, 2017). Türkiye'de yapılan çalışmalar da bu durumu desteklemekte; fen eğitimi alanında kavram karikatürlerinin yaygın olduğu, öğretmen adaylarının olumlu

yaklaşımlar geliştirdiği, ancak fen-matematik entegrasyonu gibi disiplinler arası etkinliklerde bilgi eksikliklerinin olduğu belirtilmektedir (Atasoy vd., 2020; Gökmen, 2020; Demir, 2008).

Kavram karikatürlerinin informal öğrenme ortamlarında da etkili bir araç olduğu; öğretmen adaylarının zorlandıkları konularla ilgili kendi karikatürlerini üretmelerinin kavramsal derinliği ve pedagojik alan bilgilerini artıracağı öngörülmektedir (Budak, 2019; Dereli, 2008). Buna karşın, matematik eğitiminde kavram karikatürlerinin fen bilimlerindeki kadar yaygınlaşmadığı veya sınırlı raporlandığı görülmektedir. Sarpkaya-Aktaş ve Çinkılıç (2025) tarafından yapılan alanyazın taramasında kavram karikatürlerinin matematikte kavram yanılgılarının giderilmesinde etkili alternatif yöntemlerden biri olduğu vurgulanmıştır.

Fen bilimlerindeki uygulamalarda kavram karikatürleri, kavramsal değişim süreçlerini desteklemenin yanı sıra, genetik, nükleer enerji, GDO, küresel ısınma gibi sosyobilimsel konuların tartışılmasına da hizmet etmekte; bu çok boyutlu işlev, matematik eğitimine uyarlanabilecek ilham verici bir alan sunmaktadır (Atasoy vd., 2022; Kruit vd., 2025). Bu durum, matematik eğitiminde disiplinler arası çalışmalarla kavram karikatürlerinin potansiyelinin henüz tam olarak keşfedilmediğini göstermektedir.

Türkiye'de kavram karikatürlerinin ağırlıklı olarak fen bilimleri alanında kullanıldığı ve yoğun akademik üretim olmasına rağmen uluslararası ortak yayınların sınırlı kaldığı, dolayısıyla ülkeler arası karşılaştırmalı çalışmaların ve uluslararası iş birliklerinin yetersiz olduğu görülmektedir (Arıkurt, 2014; Bayhan, 2023; Demirkan, 2024). Bu eksiklik, farklı eğitim sistemlerinde kavram karikatürlerinin nasıl uygulandığını ortaya koyacak karşılaştırmalı araştırmaların gerekliliğine işaret etmektedir.

Ortak atıf analizleri, kavram karikatürleri alanında araştırmaların genellikle birbirinden bağımsız yapıldığını, ortak kuramsal çerçevelerden ziyade ayrı kaynaklara dayandığını göstermektedir. Keogh'un (1998, 1999, 2000) çalışmaları literatürde öncü olmasına rağmen, araştırmalarda genellikle ayrı ayrı referans verildiği için ortak atıf ağları zayıftır. Bu da alanda kuramsal bütünlüğün zayıf olduğunu ve disiplinler arası, bütünleştirici çalışmalara ihtiyaç olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır.

Bu bibliyometrik analiz çalışması, kavram karikatürlerinin özellikle fen eğitimi alanında yaygınlaştığını ve çok yönlü bir öğretim aracı olarak değerlendirildiğini ortaya koymuştur. Bununla birlikte matematik eğitiminde bu araçların kullanımının henüz sınırlı olduğu, ancak disiplinlerarası uyarlamalar yoluyla bu alanda da etkili öğretim stratejileri geliştirilebileceği anlaşılmaktadır. Kavram karikatürleri, kavramsal değişimi destekleme, eleştirel düşünmeyi teşvik etme ve öğrencilerin öğrenme süreçlerine aktif katılımını sağlama açısından büyük potansiyele sahiptir.

Gelecekte yapılacak araştırmalarda, kavram karikatürlerinin matematik eğitimi bağlamında daha yaygın ve derinlemesine kullanılması teşvik edilmelidir. Bu amaçla disiplinlerarası projeler, öğretmen eğitimi programlarında uygulamalı çalışmalar ve sosyobilimsel temalarla bütünleştirilmiş öğretim etkinlikleri önerilmektedir. Ayrıca uluslararası iş birliklerinin artırılması, kavram karikatürlerinin farklı kültürel ve pedagojik bağlamlarda nasıl kullanıldığını anlamaya yönelik katkı sağlayacaktır.

Çalışmanın sınırlılıkları arasında yalnızca Web of Science veri tabanının kullanılması, kitap bölümü ve bildirilerin kapsam dışında bırakılması ve VOSviewer yazılımının teknik sınırları yer almaktadır. Bu sınırlamalara rağmen çalışma, eğitimde kavram karikatürlerinin çok boyutlu potansiyelini ortaya koyarak alandaki literatüre önemli katkılar sunmaktadır.

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