

## Content Analysis of Postgraduate Theses on the Concept of Oral Communication

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**Abstract:** This study aims to examine the postgraduate theses in the field of verbal communication skills, which have an important place in the individual's cognitively healthy, effective, and positive communication. In line with this purpose of the research, 24 full-text postgraduate theses in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education were examined and a content analysis was made by scanning the literature for researchers. The data of the research were collected through document analysis. The obtained data were analyzed by content analysis. Examined theses were examined and categorized according to the gender of the author, year of publication, distribution by the university, Institute and department, research method, sample of the research, type of the thesis, and advisor. The number of female authors was significantly higher than male authors in 1 medical specialty, 18 masters,'s and 6 doctoral theses, in which the concept of "verbal communication" was included in the research title. It has been determined that these studies are generally carried out within the Institute of Educational Sciences. The target audience of the studies is mostly university students, the least participating academics, and administrators. At the same time, the studies are mostly in the field of English Language Education, the least studies are prepared in the departments of Linguistics, Communication Management, and Public Relations, and the advisors of the theses are mostly Ph. D. It has been determined that it consists of faculty members with the title of Lecturer and Associate Professor.

**Keywords:** Oral Communication, Postgraduate Theses, Content Analysis

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### Introduction

As social beings, human beings need to constantly and permanently communicate with the environment in which they live to continue their life. In its simplest form, communication can be defined as the verbal or nonverbal exchange of information between individuals (Phutela, 2015; Özdoğan, Uzuner, and Gülay, 2018: 167). Oral communication is the transfer of information that is structured in the mind of the individual using language

(Demirel, 1999: 40). In other words, oral communication is an element that is a source of information verbally expressing its feelings and thoughts to the target audience (İl, 2018: 14). Oral communication is transferring, transmitting and explaining feelings, thoughts and wishes to the donor through auditory and visual materials (Taşer, 2015, 108). Oral communication is the most advanced and indispensable tool for communicating between individuals. In today's communication age, individuals generally communicate through oral communication. Studies show that 50% to 80% of an individual's daily life is spent communicating verbally; revealing that in the oral communication process, 45% is spent listening and 30% speaking (Nalıncı,2000:130).

Communication is a process where people share information and ideas verbally or nonverbally süreçtir (Phutela, 2015). Oral communication skill is the ability to use language as a tool to interact positively and effectively with the target audience in the social environments in which the individual lives (Abe, Bretanha, Bozza, Ferraro ve Lopes-Herrera, 2013; Özdoğan et all. 2019). Oral communication is a communication model that includes listening and speaking skills and these skills are used effectively. Since today's world is called the age of communication and information, the basic condition for individuals to be successful both in their academic and professional lives and to be sought after, admired, and loved in social life is closely related to the oral communication skills one has. Individuals who do not have effective oral communication skills often feel lonely because they avoid social environments, this affects the self-esteem of the individual and causes them to experience significant problems in solving a social problem (Ying ve Blanchfield, 2010; 487). For this reason, oral communication skill is a competency that individuals of all ages should have. Having effective oral communication skills has an important place in the socialization of the individual (Gertner et all. 1994; Rice, 1991). Oral communication is directly related to the social life of the individual and provides numerous conveniences to the individual in his social life. These:

- Thanks to oral communication skills, the individual transfers his knowledge, feelings, and thoughts faster. Thanks to this opportunity, the individual can communicate more easily.
- Since oral communication includes speaking and listening skills, feedback takes place in a short time between individuals and groups that communicate.
- It is possible to ask the sender instant questions about issues that are not understood during the communication or at the end of the communication.
- It allows using non-oral communication elements (gesture, mimic), which have an important place in communication.
- Thanks to oral communication, there is an opportunity to review or correct messages that are not understood or misunderstood, as feedback is received quickly between the parties (İl, 2018:15).

The research aims to examine the postgraduate theses made in the field of Oral communication in Master and Doctorate degrees in Turkey. For this purpose, answers were sought to the following sub-problems/questions:

1. What is the distribution of research authors according to their genders?
2. What is the distribution of the studies according to the years?
3. How is the distribution of the studies according to the university and type of publication?

4. What is the distribution according to the method used in the studies?
5. What is the distribution of the studies according to the target group?
6. What is the distribution according to the institutes where the research was conducted?
7. What is the distribution of the research according to the department/discipline?
8. What is the distribution of studies according to the title of consultant?

## Research Model

This study, in which postgraduate studies on oral communication were examined from various perspectives, was conducted in the screening model. This model is a model that identifies a situation and concept that exists in the past and present as it is (Karasar, 2020:109). The data of this research was obtained by document analysis. Document analysis is the examination and analysis of documents, written sources, or books about the facts, events, or situations that are intended to be investigated (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013:217). Document analysis also includes written materials such as official correspondence, reports, written or audio recordings, and open-ended responses (Patton, 2002).

## Data Collection Tools

The data of the research were collected with the “Graduate Thesis Review Form” prepared by the researchers through a literature review. While this form was being prepared, expert opinion was taken from academics with different titles working at various universities in Turkey. While analyzing the contents of the data collected with the Graduate Thesis Review Form, features such as the degree of the theses, the gender of the thesis authors, the university, institute, and department in which they were made, the method applied in the research, the sample group, the title of the thesis advisor were taken into consideration. The theses, which were examined by content analysis, were first transferred to the Graduate Thesis Review Form by the researchers, then they were re-examined and the data were transferred to the computer environment. The evaluation of the data transferred to the computer by the researchers was compared and the consistency among the researchers was calculated. The consistency of the data was calculated using the Miles & Huberman (2015) agreement scale, and a 93% agreement rate was reached. According to Miles and Huberman (2015), a compliance percentage of more than 70% is considered reliable.

## Sample Group

The sample group of the research consists of 24 postgraduate theses on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education in Turkey. Among the studies on oral communication, 18 Master's (f=75), 5 Doctorate (20,8), and 1 Medical Specialization (4.1) study constitute 24 studies. The postgraduate these included in the research are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Thesis Type

Year of Writing	Thesis Type
2015	Ph. D
2021	MT
2019	MT
2019	MT
2018	MT
2018	MT
2014	MT
2013	MT
2013	MT
2012	MT
2008	MT
2004	MT
2022	MT
2022	MT
2019	Ph. D
2018	MT
2018	MT
2018	ES
2017	MT
2011	MT
2009	MT
2008	Ph. D
2018	Ph. D
2019	Ph. D

### Analysis of Data

The data of the studies in which the postgraduate studies on oral communication were examined were analyzed by content analysis and the results were shown in tables. The main purpose of content analysis is to explain the data with meaningful and understandable concepts. (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013, s. 259).

### Findings

In this part of the research, the findings and interpretation of the research are given.

Table 2. Gender

Gender	<i>f</i>	%
Male	4	83,3
Female	20	16,6
Total	24	100

When Table 2 is examined, it is seen that 20 (%83.3) of the authors of the graduate theses participating in the research are female and 4 (%16.6) are male. In the studies included in the research, it is seen that female authors are more than male authors.

Table 3: Distribution of Publication Types of Studies by Years

	2004	2008	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	Toplam
Ph.D.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	5
MT	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	4	2	1	2	18
EM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

When Table 3 is examined, out of 24 postgraduate theses on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education, 4 Master, 1 Doctorate, and 1 Medical Specialization were made in 2018 at most. It was determined that the least number of studies were conducted in 2004, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2014.

Table 4: Distribution of Studies According to Universities

	MT	Ph.D.	EM	Total
Anadolu University	2	2	-	4
Gazi University	6			6
Hacettepe University	2			2
Ege University		1		1
Marmara University	1	1		2
Ankara University		1		1
Pamukkale University	1			1
İstanbul Aydın University	1			1
Dokuz Eylül University	2			2
Kırıkkale University	1			1
Yüzüncü Yıl University	1			1
Bayburt University	1			1
Necmettin Erbakan University			1	1
Grand Total				24

When Table 4 is examined, six of the 24 postgraduate theses on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education were made at Gazi University and the Master's degree. It was determined that two postgraduate studies were carried out at Anadolu, Dokuz Eylül, and Hacettepe Universities. In addition, it is seen that two studies were carried out at Anadolu University, and one study was carried out at Ege, Marmara, and Ankara Universities.

Table 5: Distribution of Studies by Institutes

	MT	Ph.D.	EM	Grand Total	%
Educational Sciences Institute	15	2		17	70,83
Social Sciences Institute	3	3		6	25
Health Sciences Institute			1	1	4,16

When Table 5 is examined, a total of seventeen studies (70,83%) in both master's and doctoral degrees were conducted at the Institute of Educational Sciences. It is seen that three master's and three doctorates (25%) were conducted at the Institute of Social Sciences, and one study in a medical specialty (4%) was carried out at the Institute of Health Sciences.

Table 6: Distribution of the Studies According to the Main Science/Branches of Science

	MT	Ph.D.	EM	%
Department of Turkish Education	4			16,6
English Language Teaching Department	6			25
Department of English Language Teaching	3			12,5
Department of French Language Education	4	1		20,8
Department of French Language Teaching		1		4,1
French Language and Literature	1			4,1
Department of Slice Science		1		4,1
Communication Management Department		1		4,1
Department of Public Relations		1		4,1
Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation			1	4,1

When Table 6 is examined, it has been determined that 24 postgraduate studies on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education were carried out in ten different Departments. In this context, it is seen that most studies are done in English Language and Education at 25%, French Language Education at 20.8%, Turkish Education at 16.6%, and English Language Teaching at 12.5%. In addition, it was determined that only one study was carried out in the Department of French Language Education, French Language Teaching, Linguistics, Communication Management, and Public Relations.

Table 7: Distribution of Studies According to Methods

	MT	Ph.D.	EM	%
Qualitative	3	3		25
Quantitative	8		1	37,5
Mixed	4	2		25
Method Unknown	3			12,5

When Table 7 is examined, the quantitative method (37.5%) was preferred the most in 24 postgraduate studies on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education. In addition, it is seen that the studies conducted with qualitative and mixed methods are equal to each other (25%). The method was not specified in three studies (12.5%) conducted at the master's degree.

Table 8: Distribution of the Studies According to the Sample

	MT	Ph.D.	EM
Student	2694	76	
ÖğretmeTeacher	20		
Academician	43	10	
Manager		10	
Other (Patient)			50
Document Analysis	Turkish Language Association e-Dictionary 2196 proverb, Course Books		
Unspecified Sample	3 Study	1 Study	

When the table is examined, it is seen that the sample group of the studies consists of higher education students, teachers, academicians, managers, patients, and TDK e-dictionary and textbooks. The selected sample group generally consists of higher education students (2770). It has been determined that the least number of studies have been done on teachers and administrators, and both studies have been done on written documents.

Table 9: Distribution of Studies According to the Title of Consultant

	MT	Ph.D.	EM	%
Assistant Professor	8	1		37,5
Associate Professor	7	1		33,3
Professor	3	3	1	29,1

When Table 9 is examined, it is seen that of the 24 postgraduate studies, eight of the postgraduate studies and one doctoral study were carried out by the advisors with the title of assistant professor (37.5%). In addition, it is seen that postgraduate studies are carried out by consultants with the title of Associate Professor at 33.3% and Professor at a rate of 29%.

## Conclusion and Discussion

In this study, in which postgraduate theses on “oral communication” were examined, 24 postgraduate theses in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education and open to access as full text were examined. As a result of the examination, the following conclusions were reached.

The studies examined consisted of 18 master's, 5 doctorates, and 1 medical specialization study. In these studies, it was determined that most studies were carried out in the master's degree and that there were more female authors than male authors. This result of the study is similar to the results of the study by Ünal and Arık (2016) and Gündoğmuş (2018) in which they examined the distribution of thesis authors according to their gender. The studies on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education were prepared in 2018 at most. It was concluded that the least number of studies in this area was conducted in 2004, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2014.

When the studies on oral communication in the field of master's and doctorate are examined, most studies were prepared at Gazi University for the master's degree and Anadolu University for the doctoral degree. It was concluded that the least number of studies were carried out in Kırıkkale, Yüzüncü Yıl, and Bayburt University. This result of the study shows parallelism with the result of the study conducted by Akaydın and Çeçen (2015). Most of the 24 postgraduate theses (70.83%) on “oral communication” were prepared at the Institute of Educational Sciences. It is seen that three master's and 3 doctoral studies (25%) in the Institute of Social Sciences and one study in the degree of specialization in medicine (4%) were prepared at the Institute of Health Sciences. It was concluded that the studies were mostly carried out at the Institute of Educational Sciences. When the studies on oral communication in the field of master's and doctorate are examined, most studies were prepared at Gazi University for the master's degree and Anadolu University for the doctoral degree. It was concluded that the least number of studies were carried out in Kırıkkale, Yüzüncü Yıl, and Bayburt University. This result of the study shows parallelism with the result of the study conducted by Akaydın and Çeçen (2015).

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24 postgraduate studies on “oral communication” were carried out in ten different Departments/Sciences. In this context, it was concluded that most studies were conducted in English Language and Education at 25%, French Language Education at 20.8%, Turkish Education at 16.6%, and English Language Teaching at 12.5%. The least number of studies were carried out in the Department of French Language Education, French Teaching, Linguistics, Communication Management, and Public Relations at the doctoral degree.



In the 24 postgraduate studies on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education, it was concluded that the quantitative method was preferred the most, and the studies conducted with the qualitative and mixed methods were equal to each other. In addition, the method was not specified in three studies conducted on the Master's degree.

This result obtained from the study shows parallelism with the results of the studies conducted by Akaydın and Çeçen (2015) and Varışoğlu, Şahin, and Göktaş (2013). In the 24 postgraduate studies on “oral communication” in the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education, it was concluded that the quantitative method was preferred the most, and the studies conducted with the qualitative and mixed methods were equal to each other. In addition, the method was not specified in three studies conducted on the Master's degree. This result obtained from the study shows parallelism with the results of the studies conducted by Akaydın and Çeçen (2015) and Varışoğlu, Şahin, and Göktaş (2013).

When the studies are examined in terms of the sample group, it is seen that the studies are composed of university students, teachers, academicians, administrators, patients, and the Turkish Language Association e-dictionary and textbooks. It was concluded that the majority of the postgraduate theses examined consisted of higher education students, and the least studies were done on teachers and administrators.

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