

Sahitya Akademi Award Citations: A Bibliometric Study (2006-2015)

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Received: 19-10-2019; Accepted: 11-02-2020

ABSTRACT

The present study is the bibliometric analysis of trends of literary awards conferred by Sahitya Akademi (National Akademi of Letters). The study is based on the data for 10 years of Sahitya Akademi awards (2006-2015). During this period a total 236 awards were given. The study includes subject/genre wise awards in 24 Indian languages including English, recognized by the Sahitya Akademi. The study reveals that most of the awards have been conferred for poetry writings (78 out of 236), followed by novel (54) and short stories (39). It also reveals that the least award, i.e., only one award has been given for narrative history writing.

Keywords: Awards trends, Bibliometrics, Indian literature. Indian writers, Indian authors

INTRODUCTION

The word 'bibliometrics' utilizes quantitative analysis and statistics to describe publications trends in a particular field of study. Hulme (1923) first coined and used the term, 'statistical bibliography to describe the application of quantitative techniques in libraries. The word 'bibliometrics' was first used in 1969 by Alan Pritchard. It flourished in the early 20th century with the works of Lotka, Bradford and Zipf who observed distribution pattern in word frequency, author and journal productivity. In Eastern Europe, bibliometric methods have been used to monitor science and scientists. The field of bibliometrics has produced major information scientists such as B.C. Brookers and H. Egghe. Other terms used for 'bibliometrics' are 'Scientrometrics', 'Informetrics', 'Webometrics', etc. In India, The term 'Librametry' was used by S.R. Ranganathan in 1948 during ASLIB conference.

The present study has been conducted to know the trends of awards conferred by Sahitya Akademi in the field of

literature. Every year, since its inception in 1954, Sahitya Akademi confers its highest literary awards to the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognized by the Akademi. Presently the award is given in 24 Indian languages including English. The award amount which was Rs. 5000 in the beginning has been enhanced to 1 lac from 2009.

OBJECTIVES

The present study has been undertaken with the objective of analysing the following aspects:

- To find out year wise distribution of awards
- To study the subject/genre wise coverage of awards
- Ranking of genre wise distributions of awards in each languages
- To trace out the leading genres in each language, etc.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology applied in the present study is bibliometric analysis which is used to study in detail about the awards given by Sahitya Akademi from 2006 to 2015. The data pertaining to awards has been taken from the website of the Sahitya Akademi. All the bibliographic details were noted and a computerised database is then created for in-depth analysis in MS-Excel.

DATA ANALYSIS

All the details such as number of articles, name of the contributors, no. of prolific contributions, languages,

Table 1: Year wise distributions of awards

Year	No. of Awards	Award Not Given
2006	24	
2007	24	
2008	23	No award in English
2009	24	
2010	24	
2011	23	No award in Nepali
2012	24	
2013	23	No award in Assamese
2014	23	No award in Sanskrit
2015	24	
Total	236	04

Table 2: Genre wise Distribution of Awards in each Language

Language	Poe-try	Novel	Short Sto-ries	Ess-ays	Criti-cism	Play	Auto-bio-gra-phy	Bio-gra-phy	Travel-ogue	Mem-oir	Epic	Narra-tive His-tory	Genre/Rank	Remarks
Assamese	1	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/4	No award in 2013
Bengali	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/5	
Bodo	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/5	
Dogri	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5/3	
English	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5/5	No award in 2008
Gujarati	2	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/3	
Hindi	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/5	
Kannada	2	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/3	
Kashmiri	4	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/5	
Konkani	4	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/4	
Maithili	1	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	5/3	
Malayalam	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	7/2	
Manipuri	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3/5	
Marathi	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	8/1	
Nepali	1	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5/3	No award in 2011
Odia	5	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5/3	
Punjabi	4	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/5	
Rajasthani	3	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/3	
Sanskrit	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4/4	No Award in 2014
Santali	3	0	2	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	4/4	
Sindhi	3	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/4	
Tamil	2	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/4	
Telugu	0	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5/3	
Urdu	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2/6	
Total	78	54	39	17	16	14	5	4	3	3	2	1		Grand Total 236

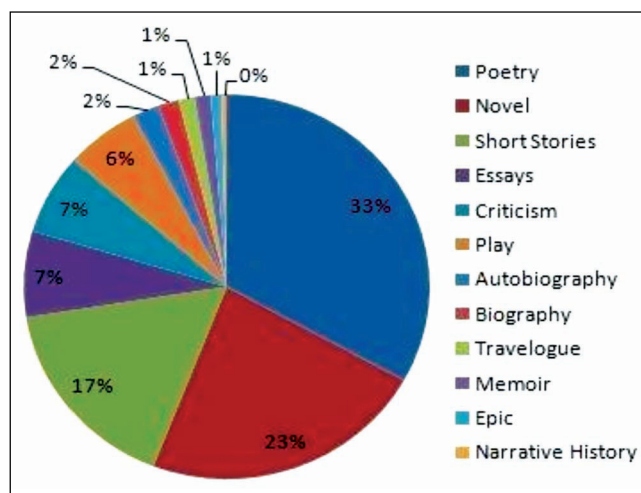


Figure 1: Percentage of Genre wise Distribution of Awards in each Language

subjects, etc. of all writings published from 2006 to 2015 were recorded for the following analysis in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that a total 236 awards were given from 2006 to 2015. However, no awards were given for English in 2008, Nepali in 2011, Assamese in 2013 and Sanskrit in 2014 in Table 2.

Table 2 highlights the genre wise distribution of awards. It reveals that poetry writings have bagged the highest number of awards, i.e., 78 out of total 236 awards. The second highest position is occupied by the novel writings which have 54 awards, followed by short stories writings, 39 awards. The lowest number of award (only one award) may be seen for narrative history writing. In addition, it also indicates the Genre and its Ranking. Accordingly, in Marathi language, awards have been given in maximum 8 genres out of 12 genres and in Malayalam it is 7 which rank first and second respectively.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The bibliometric analysis of trends of literary awards conferred by Sahitya Akademi (National Akademi of Letters) is based on the data for 10 years of Sahitya Akademi awards (2006-2015). During this period a total 236 awards were given. The study includes language wise awards in 24 Indian languages including English, recognized by the Sahitya Akademi. The study reveals that most of the awards have been conferred for poetry writings (33%), followed by novel (23%) and short stories (17%), essays and criticism (7% each), play (6%), autobiography and biography (2% each), travelogue, memoir and epic (1% each) and narrative history (0%). It also reveals that the least award, i.e., only one award has been given for narrative history writing.

In the light of the above facts, we can say that poetry writing is the most popular form of writings in which most of the Sahitya Akademi awards were conferred. Novel and Short Stories remained second and third in terms of receiving this award.

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How to cite this article: Ahmad S, 2020. Sahitya Akademi Award Citations: A Bibliometric Study (2006-2015). *JIM - Journal of Information Management*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 11-13.