

Export Diversification and Economic Growth: a Systematic Literature Review

Developing countries consistently strive for economic growth as a crucial element in achieving development (Aditya and Acharyya, 2013; Khan et al., 2021, Li et al., 2021). To this end, numerous studies have explored the factors that significantly affect economic growth. Among these factors, export diversification has garnered considerable attention and analysis over the years (Aditya and Acharyya, 2013). The relationship between export diversification and economic growth has been scrutinized through the use of econometric models and indicators, resulting in the identification of a positive or negative correlation between the two phenomena (Khan et al., 2021, Li et al., 2021).

The literature on export diversification and economic growth has been growing steadily, providing valuable insights for policymakers seeking to achieve economic development (Gnangnon, 2022). However, despite its significance, this literature has yet to be systematically analyzed to identify research patterns, gaps, and future directions (Mariano, et al., 2015). Therefore, this study aims to address the following research question: What are the primary research areas and gaps in the current literature on the correlation between export diversification and economic growth? Specifically, this paper aims to systematize the international literature published in high-impact journals on export diversification and economic growth.

To this end, a research protocol was defined to operationalize the systematic literature review in the Web of Science database (Mariano, et al., 2015), using the following search terms: intensive margin, extensive margin, export diversification, and economic growth. Our initial sample corresponds to 148 articles but applying some filters, we found 95 articles that explore the phenomena under analysis. During the screening process, we read the abstracts of the most recent and the most cited articles in English. Then, these articles were individually analyzed, and the main points were summarized in an Excel file. Moreover, a bibliometric technique was applied through the Vosviewer software. This technique reveals the citation network, the main countries, keywords, and authors that published on product diversity and economic growth.

Our results shows a positive and statistically significant relationship between indicators of export diversification and economic growth in countries with different levels of development and income; also there is a positive and significant impact of human capital and foreign direct investment on economic growth; and environmental indicators were investigated by several studies, which indicates trends in future research. In this sense, this article contributes to shedding light on the importance of export diversification on economic growth for developed

and developing countries. Furthermore, countries must consider investments in human capital to provide sector diversification, which contributes to a better quality of jobs and higher wages.

Finally, other contributions of this article are: (i) systematizing the current literature on export diversification and economic growth, we revealed 3 research gaps for future studies; (ii) we provided an overview of the main econometric models, variables and countries/regions analyzed by the most relevant international literature; (iii) we showed the most cited authors, which is relevant for future studies on export diversification and economic growth.

Figure 1. Main Keywords

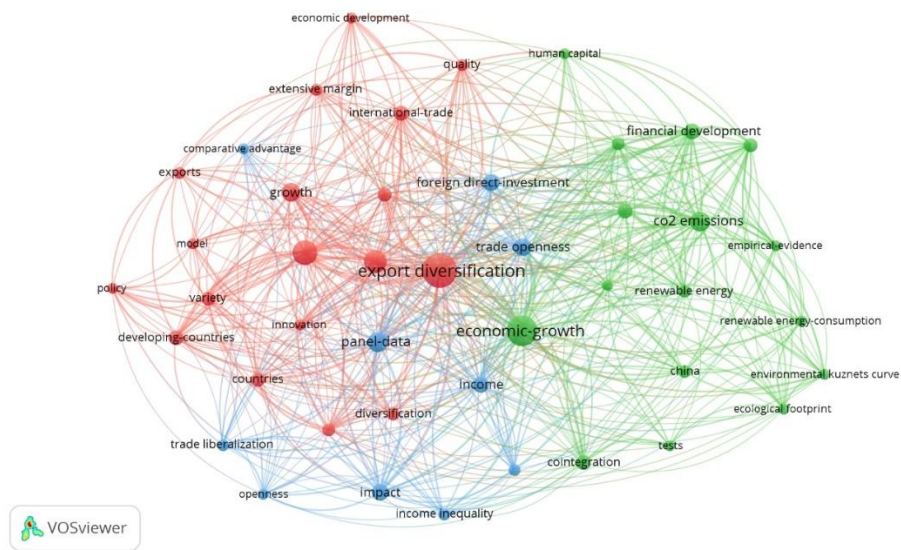
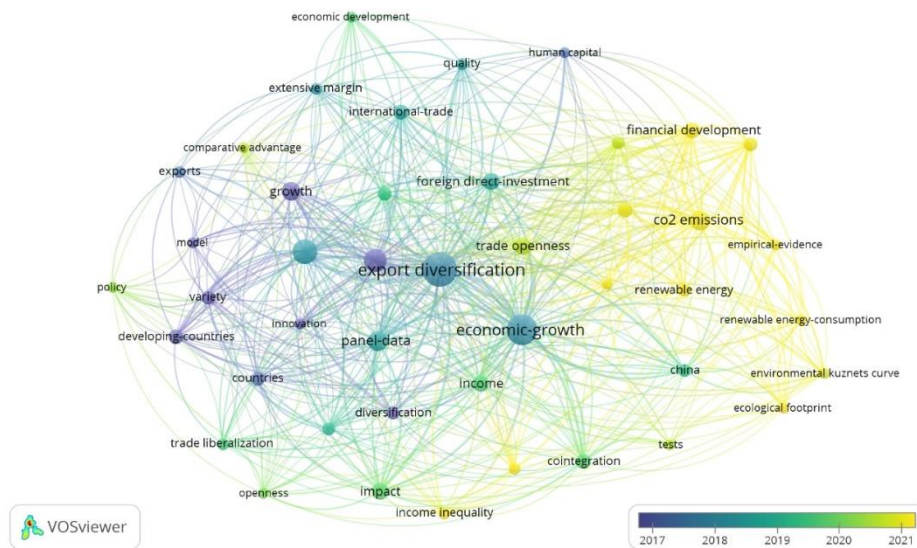


Figure 2. Main Keywords over the years



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