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INTRODUCTION

Public policy is a concept that arises in meeting of the demands of citizens, conducting public services and maintaining public order. On the other hand, public policy analysis refers to the analysis of the policies to be implemented in various ways with various tools. It is possible to come across many public policy studies in the literature on the policies produced before and will be produced in the future by governments in relation to all public services such as foreign policy, defense, housing, health and education.

Public policy analysis can be defined as a concept that associates the system analysis and the concept of policy in political meaning (Dror, 1967: 200). This analysis process is mainly perceived as using the scientific knowledge on political process and decision making Kraft and Furlong, 2018: 199) or “speaking truth to power” (Wildavsky, 1979). According to Kraft and Furlong (2018: 95), public policy analysis encompasses the collecting the necessary data to reveal the reasons of the effects of public problems, processing the data and producing and interpreting the qualified information. In the section of data collection and processing of the data obtained, the analysis of the policy may focus on different dimensions of the problem up to various disciplines. For example, while economists analyze the problem through economic transaction and decision-loss calculations, sociologists will analyze the effects of groups in society on the problem, and lawyers will analyze the legal aspects of the problem. Even if these analyses are mostly entitled the subject and agenda of decision makers, they are also on the focus point of researchers and academicians. Consequently, the number of public policy analysis researches is considerable and they take place in many prestigious scientific journals. It is intriguing that these studies are conducted in various data analysis approaches and data collection methods. To open the door of another methodological debate on public policy analysis topic, it is important to investigate whether a specific approach and a specific method are optimal for a specific policy in a specific field. For this end, this study methodologically examines the public policy analysis studies published in various prestigious journals (SSCI-indexed). In this context, in the study, 143 articles published in the mentioned journals between 2000-2019 were subjected to content analysis. The articles were coded and grouped into six main areas such as public administration policies, health policies, environmental policies, economic policies, education policies and information and communication policies. Together with the analysis, it was investigated which methods and data collection techniques were used to analyze the public policy analysis studies in these six areas.

The Design of the Research

This section presents details about the design of the research. The study contains a systematic content analysis on related literature. The search was made in January, 2019. The researchers targeted peer-reviewed articles published in the 21st century and in high quality academic journals, indexed by Web of Science (WoS) of Clarivate Analytics. In this direction, the peer-reviewed articles which were published between in the years 2000-2019 and included a public policy analysis (and specified in the title) were searched in Web of Science Core Collection (WoSCC) Search Engine (v.5.31) in order to analyze the use of public policy analysis methods in these articles. A Boolean expression was conducted to determine the articles through WoSCC had “public policy” in “topic” section, “public policy analysis” in “title” section and “English” in “language” section. At the end of the primary search, 231 related articles were found in total (proceeding chapters, book chapters and book reviews were excluded). Secondly, an examination was held in these 231 articles to detect the articles including a systemized public policy analysis. After all the search items were set, the researcher narrowed the list by refining the search quest by reading the abstracts, keywords and methodology chapters, and separated the articles as “related” and “unrelated”. Thereafter, 186 articles particularly including a specific implemented policy analysis were determined as appropriate for the research and 143 of these articles were fully accessible for the researcher. Finally, fully accessible 143 articles are included for the analyze section. Thus, the selection criteria that used for the resulting 143 articles were that the studies should answer the research question as:

RQ1: What are the featured methodological characteristics of public policy analysis studies in the 21st century?

RQ2: How do public policy analysis methods vary in different policy fields?

RQ3: Do preferred methods concentrate on specific policies depending on their policy category?

For the analysis process, 143 articles were analyzed in Nvivo 12 qualitative research software. All related data was coded in Nvivo 12 using a descriptive/topical coding method (Saldana 2009). Firstly, main nodes were created as policy categories benefiting from WoS categorization system. Intertwined categories were amalgamated in main policy categories and 6 main policy categories were determined. After categorizing the articles in different policy fields, secondary nodes were created as analysis approaches under the public policy category nodes. Under each analysis approach coded, data collection methods were also coded as tertiary nodes

to specify the methodological characteristic of the articles. After setting the main framework of the content analysis in this way, the selected articles were repeatedly read by the researcher, particularly focusing on the policy field and the methodology included in the articles. For the final section of the process, “methodology” parts of the read articles were coded into related nodes one by one. Finally, emerged framework of the analysis was presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: *Nodes created in Nvivo*

Main Nodes	Public Policy Category	Public Administration Policies Health Care Policies Environmental Policies Economy Policies Educational Policies I.T Policies
Secondary Nodes	Analysis Approach	Qualitative Quantitative Mixed Methods
Tertiary Nodes	Method	Literature Review Document Analysis Interview Discourse Analysis Content Analysis Comparative Analysis Descriptive/Narrative Analysis Statistics Survey Transaction Cost Analysis Comparative Analysis Meta Analysis Secondary Data Analysis Multimethod Analysis Network Analysis

According to main nodes, public administration policies category included the general public policies such as administrative policies, local government policies, urban policies, transportation policies, public communication policies, immigration policies and etc. Health care policies category represented all of the policies related to medicine, nursing, public health care and mental health issues. Environmental policies category contained of energy and climate change policies beside general environmental policies. Educational policies category included policies on education systems and implementations from primary to higher education and lastly, I.T.

policies category included all the policies on internet, technology, information systems. Secondary nodes identified the methodological approach of the public policy analysis and the tertiary nodes specified the data collection methods of the researches.

Findings

143 articles were coded in this study to examine the methodological characteristic of public policy analysis studies published in the years between 2000-2019. After all the process of coding and analysing the articles divided in 5 main policy fields, the findings in the table 2 below were observed.

Table 2: *Cross-Tabled Frequency of Coded Articles*

		Articles Frequency (N)					
Methodology		Public Policy Category					
Analysis Approach	Methods	PAP	HCP	ENP	ECP	EDP	IT P
Qualitative	Literature Review	6	4	-	1	-	2
	Document Analysis	3	5	-	-	3	-
	Interview	2	-	1	-	1	-
	Discourse Analysis	1	2	-	-	2	-
	Content Analysis	1	3	1	-	-	1
	Case Study	2	4	2	-	-	-
	Comparative Analysis	-	1	-	-	-	2
	Descriptive/Narrative Analysis	4	3	1	-	-	-
	Total	19	22	5	1	6	5
Quantitative	Statistics	6	3	1	8	1	1
	Survey	5	8	2	2	1	1
	Transaction Cost Analysis	-	2	-	2	-	-
	Comparative Analysis	1	1	-	-	1	-
	Meta Analysis	1	1	-	-	-	1
	Case Study	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Total	13	15	3	13	3	3
Mixed	Secondary Data Analysis	2	9	1	2	1	-
	Multimethod Analysis	3	4	2	2	-	2
	Network Analysis	1	-	1	-	-	1
	Case Study	3	1	-	-	-	-
	Total	9	14	4	4	1	3
	Categorical Total	41	51	12	18	10	11
	Articles Total Frequency (N)	143					

PAP: Public Administration Policies, **HCP:** Health Care Policies, **ENP:** Environmental Policies, **ECP:** Economy Policies, **EDP:** Education Policies, **ITP:** Information Telecommunication Policies.

Presenting the findings divided in categories could provide a better understanding of the methodological characteristic of specific policy fields. Thus the findings were presented below as subtitles related the policy field they are coded in Nvivo. All the articles that were analysed in Nvivo were cited in the text.

Public Administration Policies

This category contains general public policies that affects all citizens and made by local or central governments to arrange general public services such as administrative policies, foreign policies, social policies. 43 of articles were coded in public administration policies and most of these articles were designed in qualitative analysis approach. Literature review based policy analysis were determined as mostly used in qualitative research. Some of the articles usually presented different policy analysis using literature review (Muller, 2015; Heap and Dickinson, 2018; Hudson and Kühner, 2013) while some of them were discussing policy analysis methods mainly by supporting the claims with other articles (Saint Martin and Allison, 2011; Carlson, 2011; Peckover, 2014). Three of articles conducted their policy analysis on document analysis particularly analysing the regulatory policy documents (Holst and Moodie, 2015; Olesen and Karlsson, 2018; Hung et al, 2012). As similar analyse technic, Rafter et al. (2014) published an article conducting a content analysis of television and radio news programmes to examine the relationship between commercial orientation and policy-game framing. McLean's (2015) research that analyses the background of discourses, concepts and the terms included in Turkish Foreign Policy and dwelled on Turkish elite's statements, categorized in discourse analysis node. Using in depth interview method articles focused on territorial and local governmental policies (Portillo and Carrillo, 2015; Hazlett et al, 2012) in this category. This was a remarkable finding that there were just two qualitative case study oriented articles (Madero and Morris, 2015; Nilsson et al, 2008) and they analysed the public policy making process; participation and the tools. Four narrative/descriptive articles mainly analysed the public policy analysis in its components such as actors, decision making and analysis (Baird, 2013; Geva-May and Kfir, 2000; Hampton, 2009; Hermans and Thissen, 2009).

Statistics were detected as the most used method in quantitative policy analysis. The method was applied in various policy analyses labelled in different techniques such as risk analysis, path analysis, empirical analy-

sis and efficiency analysis (Castelar et al, 2015; Bedard, 2015; Matei and Dogaru, 2013; Marchetti and Wanke, 2017). On the other hand, it was also used in Analysis of two-tier public service systems and Policy analysis of third party electronic coupons for public transit fares (Chen et al, 2015; Chow, 2014). Secondly most use method in quantitative approach was survey analysis in the articles. Chen et al (2014) used this method in a case study on urban public transport choice behaviour analysis and Chung et al (2012) used it to figure out public discourse and acceptability analysis. In the first look, article titles could be misleading but after the content analysis of the articles, they were categorized in survey method used articles, by the researcher. The other articles used the method for general policy analysis and also multilevel analysis of various policy making process analyses (Pino and Ryzin, 2012; Lau and Heldman, 2009; Wagner et al, 2016). A comprehensive meta-analysis used in the article written by Hadani et al. (2017). They analysed US-only sample of 93 studies, working papers, and books in their research about corporate political activity, public policy uncertainty, and firm outcomes. Finally, Hooghe and Vroome (2015) conducted a quantitative comparative analysis on multiculturalist policies of European Countries.

Mixed methodology approach was also observed in the articles repeatedly. Voss et al. (2001) used internal migration data from decennial census sources, including published reports, Summary Tape Files, special migration tabulations, and Public Use Microdata Samples, as well as other migration data including decadal net migration estimates and Internal Revenue Service annual estimates in their analysis of Migration labelled as a case study. In other case studies Sert et al. (2017) used network analysis to analyse the transportation networks base in Konya and Kato et al. (2014) applied some tests to assess the feasibility of strategic transportation planning in Kanto region of Japan. Three of articles use mixed methods in their analysis of several different policies such as prison policy and regulatory policies (Chaney and Wincott, 2014; Desmarais and Hird, 2014; Fonseca, 2015). An article with network analysis containing both empirical and text data U.S. Immigration, border security policy (Chung and Zeng, 2015) and another methodologically similar designed article analysing French public-private diversity and inclusion policies (Jardat and Labulle, 2018) were also determined in this category.

Health Care Policies

Qualitative approach was detected as the mostly used approach in health care policy analysis studies. On the other hand, both quantitative and mixed methods approach were applied frequently as well. Studies varied on seven qualitative analysis methods. Document analysis, and literature

review methods were frequently referenced in the studies. Laws, decrees, ordinance documents (De Souza, 2018), key documents of health policies (Pinto et al, 2012; Kothari et al, 2013) and documents from government and public health-related organizations (Regan et al, 2014) were analysed in the articles to investigate the dynamics of policies on drugs, equity in public health standards, public health human resources and chronic disease prevention. Literature review based articles generally focused on the theoretical base of specific policy problems of health care (Raphael, 2014; Lohman, 2003; Asthana and Halliday, 2006; Breen et al, 2009; Rutten et al, 2013). Discourse analyses based articles usually targeted discourses from newspapers (Reitmanova et al, 2015), participants' interviews (Mulligan et al, 2012) and these articles subjected public health and immigrants' health care. It was determined that the policy analyses conducted with case studies (Anker and Glasgow, 2016; Winter and Winter, 2018; Dinour, 2015; Dinour et al, 2017) underlined sub-methods of case study, such as multi-case analysis and comparative case study. Another comparative analysis was conducted by Lubold (2017), on the effect of family policies and public health initiatives on breastfeeding initiation among 18 high-income countries. Three of articles which analysed nursing home policies (Syme et al, 2016), physical rehabilitation (Blanchet et al, 2014) and alcohol (Anglin et al, 2000), included content analysis method in their methodologies. Finally, a bibliographical narrative analysis of the boundary zone between science, policy and public debate (Rijswoud, 2010) and two descriptive/narrative analyses on public elderly care policy and public health nutrition (Jacobsen, 2015; Bastian, 2011) were grouped in this category.

In the quantitative approach, survey method was determined as the most common used method in policy analysis. Three of articles focused on health care policies through sectoral base (Peters et al, 2017; Maiga et al, 2003; Collin et al, 2017) and two of the articles focused on disease based policies (Velan et al, 2013; Masotti et al, 2013). Two of the articles subjected research use in public health policy (Zardo and Collie, 2014; Warren et al, 2013) and one of them examined smoke-free policy implementation in Mexico and Uruguay (Thrasher et al, 2013). Cost-Effective analysis was used in two articles on public health care policy (Russel and Sinha, 2016; Foreword, 2008) and statistics were used in the articles included analyses of uncertainty, general-equilibrium and quality (Guo et al, 2018; Kelton and Rebelein, 2007; Gilbert et al, 2014). Lastly, a comparative analysis of health care policies in three countries (Macias Chapula, 2013) and a meta-analysis on Influenza Vaccination policy (Beck et al, 2011) were categorised in quantitative approach.

Mixed methods approach was mostly used in health care policies comparing the rest of policy categories. Particularly secondary data use in this

articles was very common. These articles which were varied specific topics of health care policies, used different collection methods such as secondary data analysis, document analysis, empirical data analysis, statistics categorized both in qualitative and quantitative approach (Kofke, 2014; Kaltoft, 2015; Michael, 2014; Neave et al, 2013; Wali et al, 2018; Nistal-Nuno, 2018; Januario et al, 2017; Gorman et al, 2014; Kibuule et al, 2017). Multimethod analysis based articles which compares data collected with different methods (Fast et al, 2014; Atkinson et al, 2015; Lysaght and Kerridge, 2012; Rosella et al, 2013) and an article included case study which imported involved data from interviews and secondary data resources (Milton and Grix, 2015) were also categorized in this title.

Economy Policies

Qualitative approach was detected as the least preferred methodology option in economy policy analyses, as expected. Bansal and Aggarwal's (2017) article made a comparative analysis of legislative and judicial approaches by reviewing the literature and related juristic sources.

Most of quantitative articles included statistics in the collection and presentation of data. In several articles, statistics emerged in different ways such as game analysis (Hui, 2012), equilibrium analysis (Sangare and Maissonave, 2018). Rest of the articles researching on fiscal, spending and redistribution and etc. policies included statistics by presenting analytical and economic formulas to analyse policies (Pensiero, 2017; Tanaka, 2003; Nasution and Wahyudi, 2017; Lin et al, 2018; Domeij and Ellingsen, 2018; Cannone and Ughetto, 2014). Survey technique based articles (Martinez et al, 2014; Pullman et al, 2012) aimed to measure perceptions of participants on biobanks and competitiveness on tourism. Two of quantitative articles focused on agricultural consumption and employment policies applied cost-effectiveness and benefit-cost analyses in their methods (Dallongeville et al, 2010; Haveman and Weimer, 2015).

Mixed methods approach rarely used in the articles coded in this category. Simulation and survey method was applied in Cavana and Clifford's (2006) study, demonstrating the utility of system dynamics for public policy analysis in New Zealand. Two of articles (Sumino, 2016; His-Yu et al, 2012) used survey data to conduct an empirical and a case study. The data used in Ridde et al.' (2012) study were taken from documentary analysis, interviews and questionnaires and lastly, Farral and Jennings (2012) used both empirical and qualitative data from a range of sources dating back to 1961 and using time series modelling, in their research.

Educational Policies

In the articles which analysed educational policies, qualitative approach was mostly used. Particularly, document analysis method frequently applied to analyse the education policies through newspapers and magazines, professional societies, related educational documents and law (Dill and Soo, 2005; Knijnik and Wanderer, 2015; Paes and Silva, 2015). Discourse analysis (Kretchmar, 2011; Thomas, 2004) and in depth interview (Aronowitz and Fawcett, 2015) were other methods applied in the articles for critical policy analysis of local and cross national educational problems.

Rodriguez et al. (2018) conducted a quantitative comparative analyse of knowledge production promotion mechanisms on five universities in the Northeastern Region of Mexico. Wokadala and Barungi (2015) benefited from statistics in the analysis of government spending on public-private partnership schooling under universal secondary education policy in Uganda.

In their study, Frederickson and Stazyk's (2016) presented secondary empirical data from U.S. News Rankings and this study was coded as the only one in mixed methods approach category.

I.T. Policies

Articles analysing I.T. policies almost equally varied in methodological approaches. In qualitative studies, Flores and Villarreal (2017) carried out a comparative analysis developmental strategy of aerospace industry in Brazil, Canada, and Mexico. Similarly, Pena (2015) comparatively analysed public policies in open access models in Brazil and Argentina. McGuian's (2015) study based on a literature review, analysed U.S. National Institute of Health's (NIH) public access policy. Makridis (2013) study also reviewed the extend literature to analyse cognitive enhancement for public policy application. Kelly (2015) chose qualitative content analysis method in his research that aimed to examine collection development policies in Public Libraries.

In quantitative studies, Lee and Jung (2016) conducted a meta-analysis that combines results of empirical studies by using the statistical methodology, on radio frequency identification (RFID) adoption. Till et al. (2014) focused on algorithms accomplished by purely statistical means to promote analysis of public policy texts. Milne and Culnan (2002) analysed data from 1998-2001 U.S. Web Surveys to examine the usage of content of online privacy notices to inform public policy.

In the articles categorized in mixed methods, several data collection methods applied in the same study (Jaeger et al, 2004). Also, big data phe-

nomenon defined in I.T. policies as a multilevel analysis source (Jarmin and O'Hara, 2016). Network analysis (Jung and Park, 2015) was detected another preferred technique in I.T. policy analysis.

Environmental Policies

In the articles conducted environmental policy analysis in qualitative approach, Lopez and Bohm (2002) carried out a descriptive historical analysis of public policy for energy technology innovation. Vine et al. (2003) collected data from Experts meetings and the Practitioners Workshops and use it to analyse the energy efficiency and load management in changing electricity businesses. Lopera-Pareja (2017) applied to content analysis method on Spanish context to examine the relationship between public policies, social perception and media content on fracking. Two of articles included case studies to analyse environmental policies (Raitio, 2012; Cairns et al, 2016). In their case study, Cairns et al. (2016) engaged scenario method that is believed to be helpful for solving out single organisations or industry sectors and diverse organisational groups' complex and ambitious problems.

Survey and statistics methods were used in quantitative analysis of selected articles in environmental policies category. Lundberg et al. (2015) used statistics in his empirical analysis on green public procurement. Two of the articles (Wiser, 2000; Greenberg, 2009) designed survey to analyse the preferences of marketers on green markets and of citizens on energy sources.

Secondary data, network analysis and multimethod were used in the articles coded in mixed methods approach. Anderson et al. (2017) conducted a cross-national analysis of energy policies in Europe using secondary data sources. Cruz et al. (2018) analysed current housing habitat produced by the national public policies in Palmira by multimethod analysis gathering data from literature review and policy documents. In another multimethod based research, Witheridge and Morris (2016) utilised data from desk-based research of policy documents, associated reports and academic literature; and informal interviews with community gardens staff and organisers. The study analysed the effect of public policy on community garden organisations in Edinburgh. Lastly, Vantoch-Wood and Connor (2013) who studied on wave energy, conducted a network analysis included several empirical metrics to create a network 'map' of interactions among stakeholder of the sector.

Discussion and Conclusion

According to the findings of the research, this was put forth that the studies related to public administration, health and environmental policy analysis used qualitative, quantitative and mixed analysis approaches almost equal, economic policy analysis studies mostly used quantitative analysis approach, education and information-communication policy analysis studies mostly used mixed analysis approach and their data collection techniques. As can be seen from this result, it cannot be said that public policy studies which are carried out in a specific field are carried out with a specific approach or data collection technique. The choice of the researcher, the data collection area or inventory, the design of the research, the problem and question of the research, affect the choice of research method and data collection technique to be used. One remarkable discussion that needs to be addressed here is the use of the right methods and techniques for the right purpose.

Public policy analysis can sometimes play an important role in guiding government policies. They can also inspire local governments and even individual public institutions on a more micro scale. In this respect, public policy analysis studies need to be enriched both in number and quality. This paper presents a methodological exhibition of public policy analysis studies in various fields, published in prestigious journals since the early 2000s. Thus, it is revealed quantitatively and qualitatively which methods and techniques of public policy analysis are used in which fields. It has been observed that the data collection techniques used in the studies are increasingly diversified. In this context, it is investigated that comparative analysis, meta-analysis and network analysis techniques are increasingly adapted to the field of study. As the study focuses on public policies produced in six main areas, the findings and conclusions are kept at a more superficial level. The studies that will be made in similar and more specific policy areas but with more in-depth analysis will contribute to the development of the discussion.

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