Half a century of research on the interface between prosody and pragmatics: A bibliometric analysis of hotspots, nodes, bursts, and trends

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As an interdisciplinary field between pragmatics and phonetics, research on the prosody-pragmatics interface centers on the relationship between prosodic features and pragmatic meaning. However, a bibliometric synthesis of developments in this area over time, as well as a quantitative assessment of researchers' networks and scientific productivity, is currently lacking. To address this gap, we searched the Web of Science Core Collection from its inception to April 9, 2025, using relevant keywords. Our primary objective is to provide a comprehensive overview of the intellectual structure of the prosody–pragmatics interface by identifying key themes through analyses of co-cited references and co-occurring keywords in relevant publications. Our secondary objective is to offer researchers and students a set of concrete metrics for evaluating the research network—across countries, institutions, authors, and journals—and to highlight existing gaps and recent emerging trends. We conclude this study by discussing potential directions for future research in this evolving field.