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# Topic Modeling Analysis of Beauty Industry using BERTopic and LDA\*

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## Abstract

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is identifying the research trends of degree papers related to the beauty industry and providing information which can contribute to the development of the domestic beauty industry and the direction of various research about beauty industry. **Research design, data and methodology:** This study used 154 academic papers and 189 academic papers with English abstracts out of 299 academic papers. All of these papers were found by searching for the keyword "beauty industry" in ScienceON on August 15, 2022. For the analysis, BERTopic and LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) analysis were conducted using Python 3.7. Also, OLS regression analysis was conducted to understand the annual increase and decrease trend of each topic derived with trend analysis. **Results:** As a result of word frequency analysis, the frequency of satisfaction, management, behavior, and service was found to be high. In addition, it was found that 'service', 'satisfaction' and 'customer' were frequently associated with program and relationship in the word co-occurrence frequency analysis. As a result of topic modeling, six topics were derived: 'Beauty shop', 'Health education', 'Cosmetics', 'Customer satisfaction', 'Beauty education', and 'Beauty business'. The trend analysis result of each topic confirmed that 'Beauty education' and 'Health education' are getting more attention as time goes by. **Conclusions:** The future studies must resolve the extreme polarization between the structure of the small beauty industry and beauty stores. Furthermore, the researches have to direct various ways to create the performance of internal personnel. The ways to maximize product capabilities such as competitive cosmetics and brands are also needed attentions.

**Keywords :** Beauty Industry, Research Trends, Topic Modeling, BERTopic, LDA

**JEL Classification Code :** C80, I10, I30, L10, L66.

## 1. Introduction

If human interest in beauty and health can be classified into Maslow (1987) 's pyramid, it must be closer to esteem or self-actualization rather than human basic needs such as love & belongingness, safety needs, and physiological needs. In this respect beauty and health needs can be divided into one of self-actualization, which increases as they are satisfied, compared to physiological, safety, love and

belongingness, which no longer work as a motive. Therefore, the beauty industry is a representative industry that seeks to meet human needs for beauty and health.

Compared to other industries, the beauty industry contributes greatly to the national economy due to its high value-added inducement effect due to production activities. Also, it can induce the employment inducement effect by its labor-intensive characteristics, which boosts domestic demand by resolving employment difficulties (Health

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higher quality, segmentation, and specialization (Park & Kim, 2017).

According to the Korea Health Industry Promotion Agency, Korean cosmetics market is estimated to be \$12.3 billion in 2019. Also, the production performance over the past five years has shown a high growth trend with an average annual growth rate of 16%, but has slowed to 16.2633 trillion won in 2019. Meanwhile, exports of cosmetics in 2019 rose 4.2% year-on-year to \$6.52 billion, imports fell 2.1% year-on-year to \$1.58 billion, and exports of cosmetics rose 15.7% year-on-year to \$7.57 billion despite the worsening external environment caused by COVID-19.

**Table 1:** Cosmetics Industry Status

Division		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Market Size (Billions of dollars)	World Market	351.7	366.7	383.4	402.2	420.3
	Domestic	11.1	12.0	12.1	12.2	12.3
Production Performance (100 million won)		107,3	130,5	135,2	155,0	162,6
Import and Export (million dollars)	Export	2,910	4,178	4,944	6,260	6,524
	Import	1,397	1,434	1,527	1,615	1,581

**Source:** Health Industry Brief (2021).

In particular, the beauty industry is expected to continue to grow as the desire and expectation for beauty are expanding. However, the trend-sensitive nature makes the industry to find ways to accomplish its continuous development and ways to create new values through connection with various industries such as health, medical, culture, science, life, and emotion (Cho & Young, 2017).

Nevertheless, Korean beauty industry is limited in securing international competitiveness because of insufficient brand globalization, weak external recognition, small beauty industry structure, and insufficient overseas support system. It is evaluated that there is a lack of policy consideration for fostering industries, such as excessive and unreasonable laws and institutional operations and regulations that do not reflect reality, as well as lack of support to strengthen industrial competitiveness (Cho & Young, 2017).

In addition, it is reported that there are several problems internally in the beauty industry. Since the opening of the beauty market in 1994, franchises of beauty stores have caused extreme polarization among beauty store, and the spread of the Internet has made it easier for customers to collect beauty-related information, making it difficult to realize customer satisfaction (Kim & Kim, 2021). Despite the beauty industry has the advantage of excellent job

creation because it is a labor-intensive service industry with relatively low entry barriers, it exposes various operational problems such as smallness and limitations in securing excellent human resources (Cho & Youn, 2017).

As one of the ways to find clues to solve these problems, it is very important to confirm the research trends in the beauty industry. Therefore, this study attempted to explore what fields are interested in and what directions are developed through research trends of papers related to the beauty industry.

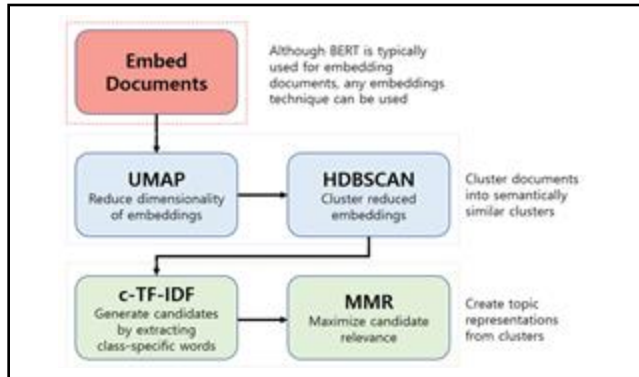
## 2.2. Topic Modeling

Topic modeling is an algorithm that extracts the subject matter of a document based on the keywords that make up each document from a vast collection of documents. As a result, it can derive the subject matter ratio of each document, and the distribution of the words contained in each topic (Blei, 2012; Yang & Yang, 2022a).

### 2.2.1. BERTopic

BERTopic is a topic modeling algorithm that utilizes BERT embeddings and class-based TF-IDF to create dense clusters, assuming that multiple documents contain topics of similar meaning (Yang & Yang, 2022a). In particular, BERTopic is known to be useful as a topic modeling algorithm by recording the highest coherence score compared to LDA, Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF), Correlated Topic Model (CTM), and Top2Vec (Abuzzed & Al-Khalifa, 2021; Grootendorst, 2022).

The specific implementation process of BERTopic introduced by Yang and Yang (2022a) is shown in <Figure 2>. The process is composed of Document Embeddings, Document Clustering, and Topic Representation in order. First, the document embedding process uses a Sentence-BERT (SBERT) framework that yields document embedding results from BERT as a pre-trained language model. Next, UMAP dimensionally reduce the results of high-dimensional document embeddings and cluster them with HDBSCAN for document clustering. In this case, HDBSCAN determines noise data as an outlier as a soft clustering technique. Finally, TF-IDF is modified to select the representative word of each topic for topic representation. In other words, BERTopic derives the distribution of representative words by modeling the importance of words for each cluster using TF-IDF on a cluster-by-cluster basis (Yang & Yang, 2022a).

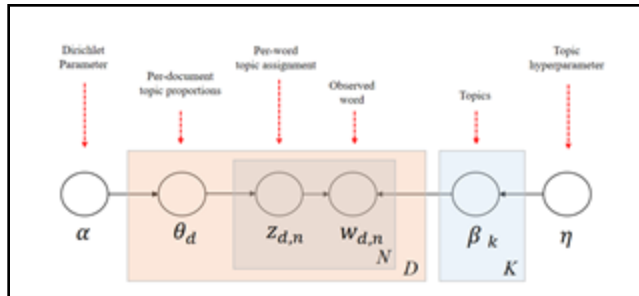


Source: Yang and Yang (2022a).

Figure 2: Principles of BERTopics

2.2.2. LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation)

LDA is an algorithm that follows a Dirichlet distribution. The word weight of the extracted topic and the topic weight of the document have positive real numbers as elements and all the elements add up to 1 (Blei, 2012; Yang & Cho, 2022; Yang et al., 2022; Yang & Yang, 2022a). In particular, it is evaluated as a suitable technique for modeling real-life phenomena because one document is an algorithm that corresponds to multiple topics simultaneously (Yang & Cho, 2022; Yang et al., 2022; Yang & Yang, 2022b).



Source: Yang and Yang (2022a).

Figure 3: Principles of LDA

As shown in <Figure 3>, LDA discovers the subject hidden in the document through the observed variables, the words  $w_{d,n}$ . Hidden parameters  $\beta$  are used to extract words and hyperparameters,  $\alpha$  and  $\eta$ . Finally, there are hidden variable,  $\theta$  and  $z$ , that cannot be directly observed in the document.  $z$  of LDA is generated from  $\theta$ , which represents the topic ratio for each document. Meanwhile,  $\theta$  is a value that follows the Dirichlet distribution determined by the value of  $\alpha$ . Finally, the  $\beta$ , the probability of word generation for each topic, is determined by  $\eta$  and the Dirichlet distribution of  $\beta$  is determined by  $\eta$ . As a result, the word  $w_{d,n}$  is determined by  $z$ , which represents the topic of each word, and  $\beta$ , which represents the probability of word generation for each topic.

LDA is used not only for research related to research trends (e.g., Yang & Cho, 2022; Yang et al., 2022; Yang & Yang, 2022b), but also for identifying trends in specific industries (e.g., Barua et al., 2014).

3. Research Procedure

In this study, LDA was additionally performed on outlier documents classified in BERTopic to derive topic modeling results. This is because the outlier documents identified in BERTopic are excluded from the topic modeling results, which is not suitable for the purpose of this study (Yang & Yang, 2022a). Therefore, in this study, BERTopic and LDA were sequentially used to increase the representativeness of each topic and to understand research trends, as in the study of Yang and Yang (2022a). The research procedure of this study is shown in <Figure 4>.

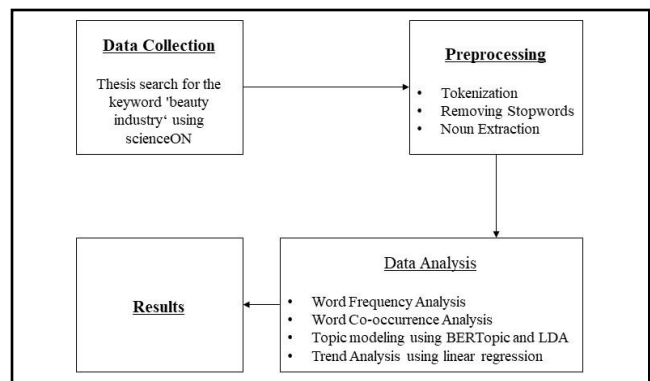


Figure 4: Research Process

3.1. Data Collection

In this study used 189 academic papers with English abstracts out of 154 academic papers and 299 academic papers for analysis. Those papers are searched on August 15, 2022, at ScienceON by using keyword "beauty industry". The reason for selecting the thesis is that research trends in the beauty industry can be confirmed from a more diverse perspective because the total number of papers is relatively less restrictive than academic journals. The number of thesis papers by year is presented in <Table 2>.

Table 2: Number of Thesis Publications by Year

Year	Num.	Year	Num.	Year	Num.	Year	Num.
2002	1	2010	6	2015	11	2020	16
2004	1	2011	12	2016	16	2021	23
2007	2	2012	7	2017	11	2022	16
2008	5	2013	11	2018	20	Sum	189
2009	3	2014	9	2019	19		



coefficient value. Griffiths and Steyvers (2004) stated that if the regression coefficient is a statistically significant positive coefficient, then a Hot topic can be interpreted as a Neutral topic (Yang & Yang, 2022a).

**Table 4:** Trend Analysis Results of Each Topic through OLS Regression Analysis

	Topic	Coefficient	p-value	Trend
1	Beauty shop	-0.0150	0.068	-
2	Health education	0.0087	0.010	Hot
3	Cosmetics	0.0037	0.387	-
4	Customer satisfaction	-0.0077	0.134	-
5	Beauty education	.0088	0.025	Hot
6	Beauty business	-0.0010	0.766	-

As a result of the regression analysis, 'Beauty education' ( $\beta = 0.0088, p < .05$ ), 'Health education' ( $\beta = 0.0087, p < .05$ ) were found that those are receiving more attention over time in beauty industry research.

## 5. Conclusions

The purpose of this study is to identify the research trends of degree papers related to the beauty industry, and to provide clues to contribute to the development of the domestic beauty industry and the direction of various research in the future. To this end, the following results and implications were derived as a result of conducting BERTopic, LDA, and trend analysis on a total of 189-degree papers in English.

Firstly, the analysis of word frequency showed that the frequency of the words such as satisfaction, management, behavior, service was high. In the analysis of the frequency of simultaneous word appearance, it was found that 'service', 'satisfaction', and 'customer' were frequently linked to programs and relationships. These results indicate that degree papers related to the beauty industry in Korea are more interested in the service sector than in the manufacturing sector. Since the beauty industry is an emotional consumption industry, this result seems to be a desirable phenomenon in responding to the sensitivity of trends. However, the beauty industry is likely to fall behind if technological innovation is not achieved. Therefore, research needs to be conducted in connection with various industries such as health, medical care, and culture to cope with consumers' desire and expectations for beauty.

Secondly, as a result of topic modeling, six topics were derived: 'Beauty shop', 'Health education', 'Cosmetics', 'Customer situation action', 'Beauty education', and 'Beauty business'. These results also mean that researchers' interest in the Korean beauty industry is showing more interest in related industries such as beauty service and health than in the manufacturing industry.

Thirdly, the trend analysis results of each topic confirmed that 'Beauty education' and 'Health education' are receiving more attention over time. It means the beauty industry is linked not only to the service sector but also to health and medical care, and that the beauty industry is a labor-intensive industry with relatively low entry barriers due to the nature of the industry. In other words, the beauty industry that researchers are interested in is expanding into the beauty-related industry as well as the beauty service sector, as classified in <Figure 1>. From another perspective, they are paying more attention to beauty and health education in relation to women's start-ups. However, in order to resolve the extreme polarization between the structure of the small beauty industry and beauty stores, it is necessary not only to pay attention to the support system to strengthen the competitiveness of the beauty industry, but also to study various ways to create internal manpower. In addition, it is necessary to pay attention to ways to maximize product capabilities such as competitive cosmetics and brands.

Although this study identified the areas of interest of researchers by examining the research trends in the beauty industry, further studies need to supplement this research. Firstly, this study targets only the degree thesis with the expectation that the absolute amount of the thesis will be more than that of the journal, and also that many of the thesis will be published in the journal. This hypothesis may limit to properly reflect the trend of the beauty industry. Therefore, in future studies, it is necessary to analyze research trends based on more diverse data such as comparison with papers in overseas academic journals along with newspaper articles and reports. Secondly, although BERTopic has the advantage of excluding keywords that are not related to LDA and determining topics through coherence scores, there is a limit to the subjectivity of topic modeling. Therefore, in future studies, it is necessary to apply a more objective method for determining the number of topics. Finally, if a comparative study with related industries in a supplementary and substitution relationship is conducted in an industrial trend study, more various implications can be derived.

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## Appendixes

### Appendix 1: Results of Word Frequency Analysis

No	Word	Freq.	No	Word	Freq.	No	Word	Freq.	No	Word	Freq.
1	satisfaction	509	6	makeup	327	11	cosmetic	290	16	image	275
2	management	41	7	appearance	320	12	type	282	17	education	274
3	behavior	380	8	difference	313	13	woman	281	18	intention	251
4	service	377	9	hair	312	14	skin	280	19	relationship	246
5	customer	335	10	job	300	15	care	277	20	product	227

Note: Freq.: Frequency

### Appendix 2: Results of Topic Modeling

Division	Topic	Topic Name	keyword
BERTopic	1	Beauty shop	customer, <b>hair</b> , satisfaction, <b>service</b> , <b>salon</b> , relationship, <b>shop</b> , intention, job, marketing
	2	Health education	management, job, appearance, satisfaction, behavior, difference, <b>health</b> , <b>makeup</b> , <b>type</b> , <b>education</b>
	3	Cosmetics	<b>cosmetic</b> , <b>brand</b> , market, skin, <b>product</b> , <b>care</b> , consumer, age, <b>color</b> , <b>tone</b>
LDA	4	Customer satisfaction	cosmetic, <b>customer</b> , intention, <b>satisfaction</b> , <b>service</b> , product, type, hair, skin, market
	5	Beauty education	management, <b>makeup</b> , image, behavior, appearance, <b>education</b> , <b>care</b> , relationship, woman, <b>program</b>
	6	Beauty business	satisfaction, <b>job</b> , <b>service</b> , difference, <b>behavior</b> , appearance, type, hair, <b>woman</b> , age

Note: Bold type word is a word that contributed to the derivation of the topic name.