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**MEMBRAN ELEKTROLIT BERBASIS
POLIETER-ETER KETON TERSULFONASI
UNTUK *DIRECT METHANOL FUEL CELL SUHU TINGGI***

ABSTRAK

Membran polimer elektrolit untuk aplikasi *direct methanol fuel cell* (DMFC) suhu tinggi harus tahan terhadap suhu tinggi, konduktivitas proton tinggi dan permeabilitas metanol rendah. Padahal kecenderungan membran elektrolit jika konduktivitas proton tinggi selalu diikuti dengan permeabilitas metanol yang tinggi. Polieter-eter keton (PEEK) termasuk polimer yang tahan terhadap senyawa-senyawa kimia dan kestabilan panas yang cukup tinggi. PEEK merupakan polimer yang hidrofobik. Untuk menjadi membran elektrolit perlu diberi gugus elektrolit (sulfonat) melalui proses sulfonasi. Untuk mendapatkan membran elektrolit yang tahan pada aplikasi DMFC suhu tinggi, perlu dibuat membran komposit. Aditif yang digunakan yaitu polisulfon, H-Yzeolit dan silika. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah membuat membran elektrolit berbasis PEEK tersulfonasi (sPEEK) untuk dapat diaplikasikan dalam DMFC suhu tinggi.

Variasi untuk proses sulfonasi adalah suhu yaitu 40, 45, 50, 60 dan 70°C sedangkan waktu reaksi dibuat tetap yaitu 3 jam. Pada pembuatan membran, konsentrasi aditif anorganik (silika dan H-Yzeolit) adalah 0, 3, 5 dan 10%. Dan aditif organik (polisulfon), perbandingan sPEEK dengan polisulfon adalah 100/0, 90/10, 80/20, 70/30, 50/50 %. Parameter yang diukur adalah kapasitas penukar ion (KPI), derajat sulfonasi (DS), *swelling air*, konduktivitas proton (σ), permeabilitas metanol (DK), suhu transisi glass (T_g) dan *tensile strength* (TS).

Sulfonasi PEEK menggunakan 5 g polimer PEEK dalam 100 ml asam sulfat pekat. Kondisi suhu sulfonasi optimum adalah 50°C yang menghasilkan polimer elektrolit DS 68%. Aditif yang memberikan peningkatan terhadap karakteristik membran elektrolit adalah silika dan H-Yzeolit pada konsentrasi 3%. Karakteristik dari sPEEK, sPEEK+H-Yzeolit dan sPEEK+silika yaitu *swelling air* = 7, 10 dan 15%; σ = 0,067, 0,07 dan 0,072 S/cm (suhu 140°C); DK = 7×10^{-6} , $8,6 \times 10^{-6}$ dan $8,7 \times 10^{-6}$ (suhu 140°C); T_g sekitar 200°C dan selektivitas lebih besar dibanding Nafion-117 (pada suhu 25-90°C) dan selektivitas masih tetap tinggi pada suhu 140°C.

Alternatif pengganti Nafion-117 telah berhasil disintesa dengan proses mudah dan murah. Membran elektrolit berbasis polieter-eter keton dengan derajat sulfonasi 68% (tanpa menggunakan aditif atau pemakaian aditif H-Yzeolit dan silika) dapat digunakan pada pemakaian suhu tinggi sehingga berpeluang besar sebagai membran elektrolit padat dalam pemakaian sistem DMFC suhu tinggi.

Kata kunci: Polieter-eter kton tersulfonasi, H-Yzeolit, Silika, *Direct methanol fuel cell*, Suhu tinggi

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**ELECTROLYTE MEMBRANE BASED ON
SULFONATED POLYETHER-ETHER KETONE FOR
HIGH TEMPERATURE DIRECT METHANOL FUEL CELL**

ABSTRACT

Electrolyte membrane for high temperature direct methanol fuel cell (DMFC) applications has to stable in high temperature, high proton conductivity and low methanol permeability. Then again, electrolyte membrane at high proton conductivity has a tendency to be followed with high methanol permeability. The polyether-ether ketone is a polymer that has good resistance to chemical and has good thermal stability. And it is a hydrophobic polymer. In order to apply the PEEK as electrolyte membrane, it has to have sulfonate group through sulfonation process. Thus for high temperature DMFC application, PEEK should be develop as composite membrane. The additives used are i.e. polysulfone, H-Yzeolite and silica. The objective of this research is to synthesize electrolyte membrane based on sulfonated polyether-ether ketone (sPEEK) for high temperature DMFC applications.

The temperatures (40, 45, 50, 60 and 70°C) were varied in sulfonation process, whereas reaction time is setted constant for three hours. For membrane preparation, the concentration of inorganic additive (silica and H-Yzeolite) was varied as follow; 0, 3, 5, and 10%. On the other hand, for organic additive (polysulfone), the ratios sPEEK/polysulfone (100/0, 90/10, 80/20, 70/30, and 50/50 %) were applied. Characterization of membrane were determine by some calculation of i.e. ion exchange capacity, sulfonation degree (SD), swelling of water, proton conductivity (σ), methanol permeability (DK), glass transition temperature (T_g) and tensile strength (TS),

Sulfonation of PEEK was carried out by using 5 g of PEEK polymer into 100 ml concentrated sulfuric acid. The optimum temperature condition for sulfonation is at 50°C that produced 68% of sulfonation degree. The additives that increased electrolyte membrane characteristic are silica and H-Yzeolite at concentration of 3%. The characteristic of sPEEK, SPEEK+H-Yzeolite and sPEEK+silica in respective order: i.e. swelling of water = 7, 10 and 15 %; σ = 0,067, 0,07 and 0,072 S/cm (at 140°C); DK = 7×10^{-6} , $8,6 \times 10^{-6}$ and $8,7 \times 10^{-6}$ (at 140°C); T_g about 200°C. Those membranes also have selectivity much higher than Nafion-117 membrane (at 25–90°C) and still has high selectivity at 140 °C.

The alternative substitution membrane of Nafion-117 has been successfully synthesized by straightforward and inexpensive process. The electrolyte membrane polyether-ether ketone based on with sulfonation degree of 68% and those modified composite ones can be used at high temperature applications so that available as solid electrolyte membrane in high temperature DMFC system.

Keywords: Sulfonated polyether-ether ketone, H-Yzeolit, Silica, Direct methanol fuel cell, High Temperature

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