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Effect of Microwave Energy on Disperse Dyeability of Polypropylene Fibres

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ABSTRACT

Because of the savings in energy consumption and the shortened process time, the use of microwave energy in textile wet processes has become an important research topic in the eco-friendly studies. In this experimental work, 100 % isotactic polypropylene (iPP) which is widely used in technical textiles, 80/19/1 and 60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE (linear low-density polyethylene polymer fibres) / EVA (elastomer of ethylene-vinyl acetate) ternary polymer blend fibres were dyed by conventional and microwave heating methods under atmospheric condition with C.I. Disperse Yellow 114, Red 60 and Blue 79. The colour yields of conventionally dyed samples were compared to those of the dyed samples using the microwave heating. Finally, the high proportion of EVA in triple fibre mixes can be improved the coloristic properties of ternary polymer blend fibre. The colour fastness to light was quite good for dyed samples by microwave heating with C.I. Disperse Blue 79, to washing and rubbing were adequate for all dyed samples. The process time was reduced almost 90% by microwave heating.

Keywords: Polypropylene fibres and its blends, polypropylene dyeing, microwave energy.

I. INTRODUCTION

The microwave energy can be used an alternative heating method to conventional processes for pre-treatment, dyeing, finishing, drying, fixation and grafting processes of textile materials. The textile materials are being heated effectively, fast and uniform by microwave heating. The direct dyeing of cotton, reactive dyeing of flax and disperse dyeing of synthetic fibres with microwave energy have been investigated in several research works. Use of microwave heating is enhanced the hydrophilicity, dyeability and colour fastness properties of fibres, reduced the process time and provided energy savings [1-4].

Nowadays, using polypropylene fibers in the industry are increasing because of their inexpensiveness, lightness and good thermal stability [5].

The polypropylene/linear low-density polyethylene blends can be used for technical, home and medical textiles. The melting point of branched linear low-density polyethylene is low and it is suitable for stick with many of the polymer in the high temperature for the textile technology. Improving the dyeability of polypropylene fibres various fibre blends were prepared such as polypropylene/polyethylene terephthalate,

polyamide/polyamide 6, polypropylene/polyamide 6, polypropylene/polyethylene etc. [6-19].

In this work, 100 % isotactic polypropylene that is the most widely used fibre in the industry, 80/19/1 and 60/30/10 % isotactic polypropylene/linear low-density polyethylene polymer fibres/elastomer of ethylene-vinyl acetate ternary polymer blend fibres were dyed by conventional and microwave heating methods under atmospheric condition with C.I. Disperse Yellow 114,

Red 60 and Blue 79. The colour yields of conventionally dyed samples were compared to those of the dyed samples using the microwave heating. The colouristic properties of the dyed fibres were investigated.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

In this experimental work, 100 % isotactic polypropylene (iPP) and triple fiber mixes obtained from two different proportions of iPP and linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) polymer fibers with elastomer of ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) were used. The triple fiber mixes were composed from the addition of different rates of EVA to iPP

and LLDPE polymers. iPP polymer (melt flow index (MFI) (230°C, 2160g)- 35 g/10min, 0.90 g/cm³ density, tensile strength 32 MPa, elongation 10 %) and LLDPE polymer (melt flow index (MFI) (230°C, 2160g)- 50 g/10min, 0.92 g/cm³ density, tensile strength 12.4 MPa, elongation 150 %) with different rate of EVA (melt flow index (MFI) (230°C, 2160g) 35-45 g/10min, 0.95 g/cm³ density, tensile strength 11 MPa, elongation 700-1000 %) were mixed in double-screw extruder, in a granular form, at 170 rpm, 170-245°C temperature and under 21 bar pressure. Production conditions of melt spinning ternary blend fibres were summarized in Table 1. The prepared ternary polymer blend fibres were 80/19/1 and 60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA.

Table 1. Production condition of ternary blend fibers

Parameter	Value
Temperature	180-200 °C
Extruder pressure	50 bar
Pump rotation	80 rev/min
Spinning ratio	1:3
Velocity of first spinning mill	300 rev/min
Velocity of second spinning mill	900 rev/min
Winging speed	183.7 m/min
Linear density of single fiber	20 dtex
Number of spinneret	40x2
Diameter of spinneret	0.4 mm

Sarapol 349 U (CHT) was used as a carrier. For the washing process of the dyed fibre samples, a non-ionic surfactant Perlavin OSV (Dr. Petry) and sodium carbonate (Merck) were used. For the dyeing samples, C.I. Disperse Yellow 114 (azo), C.I. Disperse Red 60 (anthraquinon) and C.I. Disperse Blue 79 (monoazo) were used.

2.1. Dyeing Processes

All dyeings were carried out under atmospheric condition with conventional and microwave heating. 1.5 g materials were used. Dye was applied at 1% owf depth of shade. 1

g/L carrier was added the dye bath with a liquor ratio of 50:1. The dyeings, which were carried out with conventional heating, were initiated at 30°C, the dye bath temperature was than increased to 98°C at a heating rate of 2°C/min and kept at this temperature for 45 min. Finally, the bath was cooled and the dyed fibre sample was removed from the dye bath. The dyed fibre samples were washed and then rinsed with cold water. For the washing process, the washing bath was including 2 g/L Perlavin OSV and 0.5 g/L sodium carbonate and carried out at 75°C for 15 min with a liquor ratio 25:1.

The dyeing with the help of microwave energy were carried out in a White Westinghouse, USA microwave oven, model KM06VF2W, with a maximum output power of 700 W. The reasons of preferred that microwave dyeing condition were acceptable colour differences of the repeated dyeing ($\Delta E^* < 1$ CIELab unit) and good fastness properties in various experimental works in literature [1-4]. The dyed bath in a glass beaker was placed into the microwave oven at 30°C, the energy level of the oven was adjusted to medium level (460 W). The temperature was raised to 98°C and kept at this temperature for 3 min. Then, the energy level of the oven was shifted to low level (120 W). For 5 min., the bath was kept at this temperature. The dye bath in the glass breaker was taken out of the oven and cooled down at 60°C in room condition. The sample was removed from the dye bath, washed as described for conventional method and then rinsed with cold water.

The reflectance values of the dyed fibres were measured using Datascolor SF600 + spectrophotometer with specular included mode and LAV (6.6 mm) viewing aperture. The colour (CIELab) values of the fibers were calculated using D65 illuminant and 10° standard observer values. The CIELab 1976 Colour Differences Formula was used to express the colour differences. For the fastness tests, Light Fastness Tester (James H.Heal), the Wash Fastness Tester [Gyrowash] (James H.Heal) and the Rubbing Fastness Tester [Crockmeter] (James H.Heal) were used. Scanning electron micrograph (SEM) imagings of the fibres were performed on a LEO Supra VP35 FE-SEM (10 kV).

III. RESULTS

3.1. Colour Measurement Results of Dyed Samples

The CIELab values of dyed samples are given Table 2. The CIELab values of the dyed samples and the colour differences (E^*) were calculated in accordance with AATCC Evaluation Procedure 7.

Table 2. The CIELab values of dyed samples ^a

Dye	Sample	Process	L*	a*	b*	C*	h°	ΔE*
C.I. Disperse Yellow 114	100% iPP	C	85.72	-1.27	4.20	4.39	106.82	7.61
		M	82.13	-3.61	10.49	11.09	108.99	
	80/19/1 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	80.94	-2.07	7.56	7.84	105.31	4.50
		M	84.40	-1.38	4.77	4.97	106.14	
	60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	79.93	-5.46	14.77	15.75	110.29	6.18
		M	82.37	-6.76	20.30	21.40	108.42	
C.I. Disperse Red 60	100% iPP	C	48.62	28.91	-10.90	30.90	339.34	13.04
		M	59.56	22.69	-7.47	23.89	341.78	
	80/19/1 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	57.93	27.44	-6.21	28.13	347.25	4.98
		M	60.42	24.12	-8.97	25.73	339.60	
	60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	44.77	41.44	-6.74	41.98	350.76	5.05
		M	48.59	41.18	-10.03	42.38	346.31	
C.I. Disperse Blue 79	100% iPP	C	72.29	-1.36	-7.83	7.95	260.15	5.89
		M	67.13	-1.37	-10.67	10.76	262.68	
	80/19/1 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	62.13	-1.37	-10.67	10.76	262.68	11.44
		M	54.88	-3.12	-19.34	19.59	260.84	
	60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	34.36	-0.54	-26.37	26.38	268.83	3.15
		M	31.73	-0.57	-26.03	26.04	268.75	

C: Conventional, M: Microwave; ^a The conventional processes were taken as 'standard'.

Generally, the high proportion of EVA elastomer in triple fibre mixes can be improved the colouristic properties of dyed polymer blend fibre.

3.2. Colour Fastness Test Results of Dyed Samples

The light, washing and rubbing fastness test results are summarized in Table 3. The light fastness tests are carried

out in accordance with the method described in ISO 105-B02. The dyed fibre samples were exposed to the light for 100 h. The washing fastness tests are carried out in accordance with the method described in ISO 105-C06, A1S test conditions; 40 °C temperature, 30 min and 10 steel balls. The rubbing fastness tests are carried out in accordance with ISO 105 X12.

Table 3. Colour fastness properties of dyed fibre samples.

Dye	Sample	Process	Light Fastness	Washing Fastness ^b							Rubbing Fastness	
				CC	SCA	SC	SN	SP	SA	SW	Dry	Wet
C.I. Disperse Yellow 114	100% iPP	C	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4-5	5	4-5
		M	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4-5	5	4-5
	80/19/1 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4-5	5	4-5
		M	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4-5	5	4-5
	60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4-5	5	4-5
		M	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4-5	5	4-5
C.I. Disperse Red 60	100% iPP	C	6	4-5	3	4	2	4	4	3	3-4	4
		M	5	4-5	3	4	2	3-4	4	3-4	4	4
	80/19/1 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	8	4	3	4	2	3-4	4	3	3-4	3-4
		M	5	4	3	4	2	4	4	3	4-5	4
	60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	8	4	3	4	2	3-4	4	3-4	3	4
		M	6	4	3	4	2	4	4	3	3	4
C.I. Disperse Blue 79	100% iPP	C	3	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	3-4	5	4	4	3
		M	5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	3-4	5	4	4	3
	80/19/1 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	2	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	3-4	5	4	4	3
		M	5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	3-4	5	4	4	3
	60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA	C	2	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	3-4	5	4	4	3
		M	5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	3-4	5	4	4	3

^b CC= Colour change; SCA= staining on secondary cellulose acetate; SC= staining on bleached unmercerized cotton; SN=staining on

The fastness results of dyed fibres with C.I. Disperse Yellow 114 showed that in general all groups obtained quite good light (5), wash (4-5,5) and dry (5) / wet (4-5) rubbing fastness. Dyed fibres with C.I. Disperse Red 60 have outstanding fastness to light for 60/30/10 % iPP/LLDPE/EVA ternary polymer blend fibre, also good fastness. The wash fastness test results of the fibres are good (3-4), except staining on nylon 6.6 (2). The dry rubbing fastness is only slightly better (3) and wet rubbing fastness is quite good (4). The light fastness results for dyed fibres with C.I. Disperse Blue 79 by microwave energy have quite better (5) than the conventional method. The wash fastness test results of the fibres are better (4-5.5) than staining on nylon polyester (3-4). The dry rubbing fastness is quite good (4) and wet rubbing fastness is only slightly better (3).

3.3. Morphological Properties of Samples

SEM images of conventional and microwave dyed iPP/LLDPE/EVA ternary polymer blend fibres can be seen at Figure 1. It has been a lot of porosity on the surface of conventionally dyed iPP/LLDPE/EVA ternary polymer blends (Figure 1 a). It has not been observed any porosity

or deformation on the surface of iPP/LLDPE/EVA blend fibres dyed with microwave dyeing method on SEM images (Figure 1 b).

IV. CONCLUSION

This experimental work has showed that; the high proportion of EVA in triple fibre mixes can be improved the coloristic properties of ternary polymer blend fibre. The colour fastness to washing and rubbing were adequate. The light fastness results of the dyed fibres with C.I. Disperse Blue 79 by microwave heating were quite good. There are no porosity or deformation on the surface of dyed ternary blend polymer fibres by microwave heating.

The total dyeing time was 79 min for conventional and 8 min for microwave methods, including the time for heading up of the dye baths. Therefore, using microwave heating for dyeing process has many advantages such as almost 90% time and a great amount of energy savings. It is clear that, using microwave heating is an important alternative method to the conventional dyeing processes.

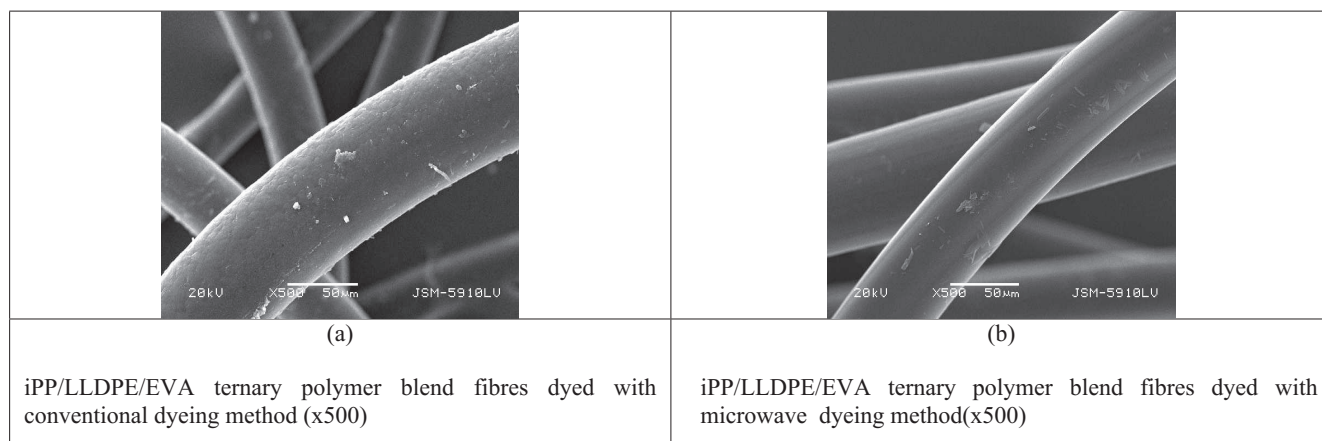


Figure 1. SEM images of iPP/LLDPE/EVA ternary polymer blend fibres after dyeing

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