



CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

Catalysis and Catalytic processes are integral parts of modern world. A large part of chemical industry, one of the pillars of the contemporary economic activity, is build on the sound platform of catalytic process.

Catalyst has made giant strides, since Barzelius first explained the phenomenon almost a century back. Catalytic processes have faced many a challenges arising out of continuous changing socio-economic perceptions entailing business compulsions.

Catalysis plays an important role to come up with better and more efficient processes for chemical industries because of serious environmental and ecological¹ concerns. Fresh challenges are being posed for chemical industries, from increasing stringent norms of fuels emission from automobile engines to the reduction of voluminous byproducts in speciality chemical processing. Catalysis hold key to solve many such problems. It is found that most reactions such as oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis, dehydration in living organisms occur at the required rate owing to the participation of biological catalysts which stimulate natural processes. Now for many reactions suitable catalysts are known and readily available in most instances.

Primary factors which govern the choice of useful catalysts in a known process are activity, selectivity and physical suitability. Other important factors such as regenerability and cost of the catalysts are also of importance.

Catalysis contribute, directly or indirectly, to about 25% of gross national product². Catalysis which is a part of the clean technology coupled with precision and elegance into chemical manufacturing makes the research in this area vibrant and interesting⁽³⁻⁴⁾

Catalysis has normally been classified into two broad categories viz.

1. Homogeneous and
2. Heterogeneous

Homogeneous catalysts have been utilized in many industrial processes (Table 1.1) because of its various advantages⁽⁵⁾ such as high activity and selectivity at mild operating conditions and the availability of the entire catalyst molecule to the reacting system. The nature of the active sites could be understood in a better way. It also offers the advantages like stereo specificity, substrate activation and elimination of heat and mass transfer resistance. Their activity and selectivity could be tailored by varying the ligand attached to the metal ions.

However the main disadvantage of homogeneous catalysts is the problem of their separation from the reaction medium. Corrosion, plating out on the reactor wall and product contamination also pose serious problems. The handling and storage of the catalysts are also been found to be very expensive and this hampers the use of homogeneous catalyst for industrial purpose.

On this background heterogeneous catalyst gained a new momentum and research has been turned to heterogeneous catalyst having economical and ecological benefit. It can withstand high temperature and pressure and can also offer easy handling, separation from reaction system, extended catalyst life as well as minimization of the byproducts, which save waste disposal cost. These catalysts could be fixed beds in gas-solid and liquid contact reactors¹¹. In this thrust toward transforming homogeneously catalyzed processes to heterogeneous catalytic processes, zeolites are gaining in importance. The experience in the use of such catalysts in the petrochemical industry can be increasingly applied to the selective organic synthesis of chemical intermediates and fine chemicals. Zeolites with their numerous adjustable catalytic properties offer a broad range of possibilities for this purpose. In the Vapour phase

Beckmann rearrangement for the synthesis of α -caprolactum is a good example of this fact. However a large amount of side product was noted which is environmentally unacceptable. The new synthetic route is to use H_2O_2 as an oxidant over a Ti containing MFI-Zeolite TS-1 which avoid the use of hazardous and corrosive sulphuric acid and the generation of ammonium sulphate.

Solid acid catalysts have also gained importance due to their high activity. Recently an extremely active solid acid catalyst Nafion resin/silica composite was developed at Dupont R and D for the Friedel Craft Benzylation of benzene and p-xylene with benzyl alcohol. This composite catalyst was found to be nearly two orders of magnitude more active than plain Nafion resin¹². Catalysis by aerogels have also generated a lot of interest¹³. Neumann et. al¹⁴ have reported metal oxides substitute silicate xerogels as catalysts for oxidation of olefins using H_2O_2 as an oxidant. It was found that kerogles having porous structure with sufficiently large pores for fairly large organic substrates have the important potential as an active oxidation catalyst, valuable for the development of environmentally friendly processes. De Groot et al¹⁵ have investigated the formation of phenol and acetone from cumene hydroperoxide with 100% selectivity using montmorillonite clay F-20 as catalyst. B Juraj et al¹⁶ have studied the peptide bond formation using silica, alumina and clay catalysts and found enhanced efficiency of alumina catalysts. Heterogeneous catalysts have also proved their importance in enantio selective reactions. Cinchona alkaloid modified platinum catalysts have been used for enantioselective hydrogenation of α -keto-ester by Blaster et al¹⁷.

However, the advantages of heterogeneous catalysts when compared to homogeneous catalyst are at the expense of activity, selectivity and proper understanding of the nature of the active species. Thus, both homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts have their own advantages as well as disadvantages. It is ideal, therefore to combine the advantages and simultaneously minimize the disadvantages of each class of catalysts. This could be achieved by heterogenizing homogeneous catalysts i.e. attaching a homogeneous catalyst to

heterogenizing homogeneous catalysts i.e. attaching a homogeneous catalyst to a solid insoluble support through covalent bonding. Here the ligand spheres of the metal remains unchanged and the attached complex is bathed by solvent and reactants. Thus, the resultant heterogenised homogeneous catalyst could function mechanistically as if it was in solution but it would operate as a separate immobile phase^{17,18}. The ideal catalysts thus obtained would have the specificity and controllability of homogeneous type and seperability of heterogeneous system¹⁹.

The support used for these types of catalyst can be classified into two categories.

1. Inorganic oxides such as silica, alumina, glasses, zeolites, clay etc.,
2. Organic polymers such as polystyrene, polyvinyl pyridines, polyacrylates etc.

Inorganic oxides used as supports, have the advantages of better mechanical and thermal stabilities coupled with reasonable heat transfer properties. A number of studies have been reported using inorganic oxide supported complexes²⁰ as catalyst for various industrial processes e.g. olefin polymerization using metal oxide supported complexes of Cr, Ti or Zn and synthesis of formaldehyde by methanol oxidation using mixed oxides of Fe and Mo²¹ as catalyst. Many reports are available on application of mesoporous molecular sieves(MCM-41) supported catalysts for Hydro sulfarisation (HDS), Hydrodenitrogenation (HDN), Mild Hydrocracking (MHC), Friedel Craft alkylation, olefin oligomerization and many other reactions including environmental studies²². Recently Hu et al²³ have reported partial hydrogenation of benzene to cyclohexene using ruthenium catalysts supported on binary oxides $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3\text{-ZnO}$ and a higher yield was obtained.

Kurusu²⁴ studied the oxidation of organic substrates under mild operating condition using immobilized of Fe(II) and Cu(II) ions on silica gel and montmorillonite clay and a higher catalytic activity was observed. Palladium

supported on Spanish sepiolites catalysts were found to be a successful catalyst for the reduction of acetophenone and various other substituted alkenes²⁵. A number of studies have been carried out by various workers using supported catalysts. These include the catalysts which were found to be a successful catalysts for the reduction of acetophenone and various other substituted alkenes²⁵. A number of studies have been carried out by various workers using supported catalysts for the reduction of acetophenone and various other substituted alkenes²⁵. A number of studies have been carried out by various workers using supported catalysts. These include the catalytic oxidation of CO by O₂ using NiO/Al₂O₃²⁶.

Malyala and Co-workers²⁷ carried out the hydrogenation of acetophenone using Ni and bi-metallic Ni-Pt supported on zeolite Y catalysts. Xu et al²⁸⁻²⁹ reported reaction of light olefins during Fisher Tropsch synthesis using silicate-2-zeolite supported iron catalyst.

Keisk³⁰ reported catalysts were found to be very effective not only in the industrial processes but in controlling the environmental pollution. Catalytic technologies are helping to protect the ozone layer, reduce the green house effects, create environmentally safer transportation, solve environmental problems of energy production, raise energy efficiency, minimize the use of raw materials and process which renew raw materials.³¹ Reformulate fuels which are environmentally more friendly can be produced via new catalytic processes. Catalysts for the oxidation of aqueous organic compounds in waste water treatments have also been developed.³²

Kasahara and co-workers³³ studied the activity of the mixed components of Pt, Pd and Rh for the conversion of hydrocarbon and CO from the exhaust, so that the efficiency can be improved.

A method was developed by John³⁴ to restrict the emission of nitrogen oxides as well as of other unwanted vapors emitted from running vehicles and stationary sources.

Wu Shanliange et al³⁵ developed technology for purifying automobile exhaust gas. CO, hydrocarbons & NO in the exhaust gas were converted into CO₂, H₂O and N₂ by redox reaction using catalytic convertor. Ruby et al³⁶ reported a classic approach to abate emission at the tail pipe or stock before emitting to atmosphere.

A new technology called prem Air catalyst systems take a different approach and reduces ambient ground level ozone. The new system involves placing a catalytic coating on car's radiator or air conditioner.

Della and co-workers³⁷ studied the air emissions using driving cycles representatives of different levels of urban traffic.

Gao et al³⁸ studied the nitration of phenyl methane in liquid phase with HNO₃ phenyl on HM1-MZSM-5. Some other solid acid catalysts have been used and it was found that the nitration reaction proceeds in the pore channel of Zeolites and the paraselectivity for the reaction is closely related to the pore size of the catalysts. During the nitration NO₂ was formed by dissociation of HNO₃ and PhMe was absorbed on catalyst and the catalytic activity depended on both the acidic properties and hydrophobicity of the catalysts.

Agarwal et al³⁹ have studied the oxidation of toluene in the vapour phase over preovskites viz. La Co CO₃, La Cr CO₃ and La Fe CO₃ and the activity was found to be in the order of La Co CO₃ > La Fe O₃ > La Cr O₃.

Recently metal complex catalysts have been used as asymmetric catalysts. Zaohum⁴⁰ reported that a siliceous (Si-MCM-41) and alumino-Silicate

Meso-porous molecular sieve (AIMCM-41) with variable frame work Si/Ac ratios have been used as support to immobilize manganese 2,2' – bipyridine (L) complex. Cations $[\text{MnL}_2]^{2+}$ via incipient wetness impregnation of ion exchange with $\text{Mn L}_2 (\text{NO}_3)_2$ in aceto nitrile.

Organic polymers are found to be popular catalysts support. A brief outline on the emergence, advantages and applications of polymer supported metal complex catalysts is given in the following section.

1.1 : POLYMER SUPPORTED CATALYSTS

The use of polymer supports for catalysts as well as synthetic reagents has grown tremendously since Marrifield demonstrated their use in peptide synthesis.⁴¹

Attachment of transition metal complexes to organic polymers appeared by the end of 60's as a suitable means to approach two of the main goals⁴² of research in catalysis.

- 1) The formation of suitable catalysts with reproducibility, activity and selectivity as homogeneous systems and separation from reaction products at heterogeneous catalyst.
- 2) The achievement of a catalyst system where the active sites have known structures which may permit better understanding of the molecular mechanism of catalytic reaction.

The polymer supported catalysts are synthesised by bonding covalently the transition metals to polymeric networks to impart insolubility in the reaction mixture. For this purpose functional polymer support is synthesized either by polymerizing the monomer containing desired functional groups or by

functionalizing cross-linked polymers and then incorporating metal complex catalyst precursor on to this functionalized polymer support.

The chief advantage of these type of the support was found in their insolubility, non-volatility, non-toxicity and recyclability.

Most of the polymers are inert and do not interfere in the catalytic processes. These properties are especially attractive in an era of enhanced environmental awareness.⁴³ These polymers can be synthesized easily with a wide range of physical properties. Their functionalization capacity could be increased by introducing the aryl groups.⁴⁴ The degree of functionalizing is significantly different between inorganic oxides and organic polymer supports. Inorganic oxides have an upper limit of monofunctional groups of 1-2 meq., g⁻¹ of matrix. Organic matrix can carry up to 10 meq. g⁻¹ of matrix.⁴⁵

Thus, compare to inorganic oxides, organic polymer support can offer immense modification possibilities.

In order to stabilize the unstable structure on the surface, it prevents the deactivation of reactive catalytic species. Dimerisation of the catalyst in the reaction could be prevented due to isolation of active sites on the polymer matrix. Thus, supported catalyst can be prepared with high dispersion of metal atoms in polymer matrices, in order to achieve optimum activity and selectivity than the homogeneous counterpart. The polymeric ligands stabilize the reduced metal species, prevent formation of metal aggregates. Polymer support stabilize the reactive and coordinately unsaturated metallic sites, thereby increasing the activity of the catalyst. The presence of metal complexes with vacant ligand sites enhance its activity, such situation rarely occurs in homogenous complex.

Furstner and coworkers⁴⁸ formulated a new concept for C-C-bond formation catalyzed by early transition metals in low oxidation states.

Armstrong et al⁴⁹ synthesized a chiral catalyst for stereo-selective reductions, epoxidations and hydro-carbozylations. Eighty three popular chiral reagents were used to synthesise a wide variety of compounds of high enantiomeric purity, Chiral auxiliaries including a variety of oxazolidinones, a wide variety of chiral synthons and chiral resolving agents were studied and found that enantiomeric impurities were found in all reagents. Over half of the chiral reagents tested had enantiomeric impurities at levels > 0.1%.

Bala Krishnan and Muragan⁵⁰ have prepared surface enriched polymer supported phase transfer catalysts (SE-PSPTC) using vinyl toluene (VT) as a functional monomer.

Recently, metal complex catalysts have been used as asymmetric catalysts.

Brno⁵¹ reported the phenomenon of chirality which is closely associated with diversity of possible structural features and its impact on chemistry. Clark⁵² and coworkers⁵² synthesised the mesoporous as robust catalyst and used in liquid phase processes, such as Friedel Craft reaction, selective oxidations, nucleophilic substitution and aromatic brominations.

Maxwell⁵³ reported the innovation of the catalyst for developing the industries and expansion in power generation, which is very crucial due to swell populations.

Blackman⁵⁴ studied the non-linear relation between the optical purity of a chiral catalyst and the enantio-selectivity obtained in the catalysed reaction. It is

also demonstrated as to how asymmetric application may be exploited for practical strategies in inorganic synthesis.

Xiaomina and co-workers⁵⁵ synthesised a catalyst which were found to be useful for enantio-selective silylcination of aldehydes using chiral salen-Te' (OR)₄ complexes as catalyst.

Nam et al⁵⁶ carried out Salen Mn(II) oxidation of alcohol using sodium hypochloride as an oxidant.

A review was published by Fache et al⁵⁷ using nitrogen containing Chiral ligands heterogenising on polymeric support and a large number of reactions were carried out.

Masanori et al⁵⁸ succeeded in getting a homoallylic alcohol derivatives in a regio and stereo selective manner where 1, 3 dienes is reacted with aldehydes in the presence of EtSiH using a catalytic amount of Ni (Cod)₂ and PPh₃. Ram et al⁵⁹ synthesised Ru (III) complex, by sequential attachment of H₂N-CH₂-CH₂-NH₂ and RuCl₃ to chloromethylated styrene – divinyl benzene co-polymer with 8% cross linking. The activity of this catalyst was tested for Ph-CH₂OH oxidation by varying the parameters such as temperature of the system, and also by varying the concentration of substrate and catalysts. The activation energy and entropy were calculated from the kinetic data and probable reaction mechanism was proposed. Ram et al⁶⁰⁻⁶¹ synthesised the polymer supported palladium (II) complex catalyst for oxidation of toluene. They also synthesised Ru(III) complex as catalyst and the activity of this catalyst was also tested for oxidation, and thoroughly studied. Lei ziging et al⁶² studied the oxidation of alkylbenzene to aryl alcohol and ketones. This was accomplished with high selectivity and activity using linear poly (styrene) (PS) and styrene divinyl benzene co polymers (DVB) as support for copper (II) complex catalysts. The reaction was carried out in presence of molecular oxygen at 110⁰C. Groves John T and co-workers⁶³ studied the novel

oxidative processes for substrate such as olefins, alkenes aromatic and alcohols, using, metallic porphyrins or salen. The complex is having axial ligands and electron-withdrawing peripheral substitutions are preferred. Weiner et al⁶⁴ reported that polyoxo anion supported from (II) complex is significant as well as enroute to the goal of achieving a long 6-lived, catalytic dioxygenase system without the need to worry about catalyst lifetime-limiting ligand oxidation side reactions. Skarias and co-workers⁶⁵ synthesized novel polymer supported vanadium (V) and chromium (VI) ions as oxidation catalysts. A variety of oxidation reaction were carried out. Gu and co-workers⁶⁶ reported that N N' bis (Salicylidence) – 1, 3, propy lenediiminato Cobalt (II) as catalysts which can coordinate and make active the molecular oxygen. It is utilized in synthesis of fine chemicals. The kinetic study was carried out by changing the parameters such as concentration of catalyst, the temperature of the system, the time and the velocity of air flow and the solvents. The possible mechanism was discussed. Zhang et al⁶⁷ reported the oxidation of toluene to benzoic acid and oxidation of other aromatic hydrocarbons in presence of cobalttrichloroacetate, manganese trichloroacetate and ammonium bromide as catalyst.

1.2 : AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE WORK

1. The main aim of the present work is to heterogenize the homogenous transition metal complex catalysts and to probe their catalytic activity for oxidation and other industrially important reactions. The work is focused on oxidation of toluene using manganese (II) and Nickel (II) complexes of O-phenylenediamine and salicylaldehyde-p-phenylenediamine anchored on to various cross-linked styrene-divinylbenzene co-polymer. Many polymer bound non-chelated complexes are reported to be less stable and leached out into the solvent under the reaction conditions. Chelated complexes are more stable and less liable than non-chelated ones. Chelated complexes are polymer matrix and alternatively, use of commercially available chloromethylated styrene-divinylbenzene as support. It is believed that highly functionalized co-polymer will give rise to strongly bonded metal complexes to prevent or reduced metal leaching.
2. Synthesis of the chelated metal complex similar to the polymer-anchored metal complexes to study the catalytic activity in homogeneous system.
3. Characterisation of synthesized catalysts using different techniques such as infrared; uv-vis reflectance, electron spin resonance spectroscopy (ESR). Thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA). scanning electron microscopy (SEM), swelling studies using different solvents, surface area measurement using BET method at liquid N₂ temperature and the other physico-chemical studies like moisture content, bulk density etc. Attempt has been made to propose possible structure of catalysts on the basis of modern spectroscopic techniques.
4. Investigation of catalytic activity of the synthesized catalyst for oxidation of toluene under mild operating conditions.
5. Comparison of catalytic activity of homogenous and heterogenised homogeneous catalysts.
6. Life cycle studies of heterogenised catalysts.
7. Elucidation of probable reaction mechanism for both the systems.

1.3 : THE PRESENT STUDY INCLUDES :

1. Functionalization of styrene divinyl benzene co-polymer of different cross linking by chloromethylation, treatment with multi-dentate ligands with N and O as donor atoms and finally attachment of Mn(II) and Ni(II) metal ions to form appropriate metal complexes on the area measurement using BET polymer matrix and alternatively, use of commercially available chloromethylated styrene-divinylbenzene as support. It is believed that highly functionalized co-polymer will give rise to strongly bonded metal complexes to prevent or reduced metal leaching.
2. Synthesis of chelated metal complex similar to the polymer-anchored metal complexes to study the catalytic activity in homogeneous system.
3. Characterization of synthesized catalysts using different techniques such as infra-red, UV-vis reflectance, Electron spin resonance spectroscopy, thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), swelling studies using different solvents; surface area measurement using BET method at liquid N₂ temperature and other physico-chemical studies like moisture content, bulk density etc. Attempt has been made to propose possible structure of catalysts on the basis of the modern spectroscopic techniques.
4. Investigation of catalytic activity of the synthesized catalyst for oxidation of toluene under mild operating conditions.
5. Comparison of catalytic activity of homogenous and heterogenised homogeneous catalysts.
6. Life cycle studies of heterogenised catalysts.
7. Elucidation of probable reaction mechanism for both the systems.

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