Effect of metal oxides on Cu/ZnO based catalysts for methanol synthesis from various ratio of CO/CO₂ and H₂

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As emission standards have limited CO_2 emission strictly, interests on carbon dioxide capture, storage and utility has been increased. Methanol synthesis process is one of the most promising solution to greenhouse effect because methanol is synthesized by $\mathrm{syngas}(H_2+\mathrm{CO})$ and CO_2 . Existing commercial catalysts are based on $\mathrm{Cu/ZnO/Al_2O_3}$ catalysts. These catalysts are effective for high ratio of $\mathrm{CO/CO_2}$, but methanol yield is sharply decreased at low ratio of $\mathrm{CO/CO_2}$. For this reason, research of new catalysts on methanol synthesis is required to accomplish high conversion of $\mathrm{CO_2}$ and yield of methanol.

In this research, metal oxides (Ce, Mg, Zr, Al, Ga) were added to Cu/ZnO based catalyst by co-precipitation method. Ratio of $\rm CO/CO_2$, reaction temperature and pressure were varied to find out optimum reaction condition. Throughout the experiments, $\rm Cu/ZnO/ZrO_2$ catalyst showed high conversion of $\rm CO_2$ and yield of methanol among $\rm Cu/ZnO$ based catalysts. As the ratio of $\rm CO/CO_2$ was decreased, yield of methanol was decreased, but conversion of $\rm CO_2$ was increased.