Study of the Reverse-Water-Gas-Shift Reaction (RWGSR) over supported-ZnO catalysts

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Reverse–Water–Gas–Shift Reaction (RWGSR) was carried out over the ZnO, Al2O3, and ZnO/Al2O3 catalysts at the temperature range from 400 to 700° C. The ZnO showed good specific reaction activity but this catalyst was deactivated. All the catalysts except the ZnO/Al2O3 catalyst (850°C) showed low stability for the RWGSR and was deactivated at the reaction temperature of 600°C. The ZnO/Al2O3 catalyst calcined at 850°C was stable during 210 hrs under the reaction conditions of 600°C and 150,000 GHSV, showing CO selectivity of 100% even at the pressure of 5 atm. The high stability of the ZnO/Al2O3 catalyst (850°C) was attributed to the prevention of ZnO reduction by the formation of ZnAl2O4 spinel structure. The spinel structure of ZnAl2O4 phase in the ZnO/Al2O3 catalyst calcined at 850°C was confirmed by XRD and electron diffraction.