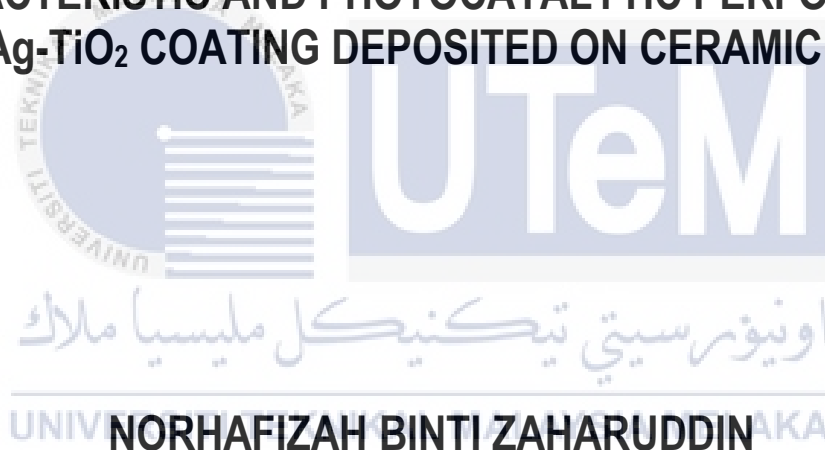




**EFFECT OF DEGUSSA ADDITION AND Ag CONTENTS ON THE
CHARACTERISTIC AND PHOTOCATALYTIC PERFORMANCE
OF Ag-TiO₂ COATING DEPOSITED ON CERAMIC TILES**



NORHAFIZAH BINTI ZAHARUDDIN

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

2024



**Faculty of Industrial and Manufacturing Technology and
Engineering**



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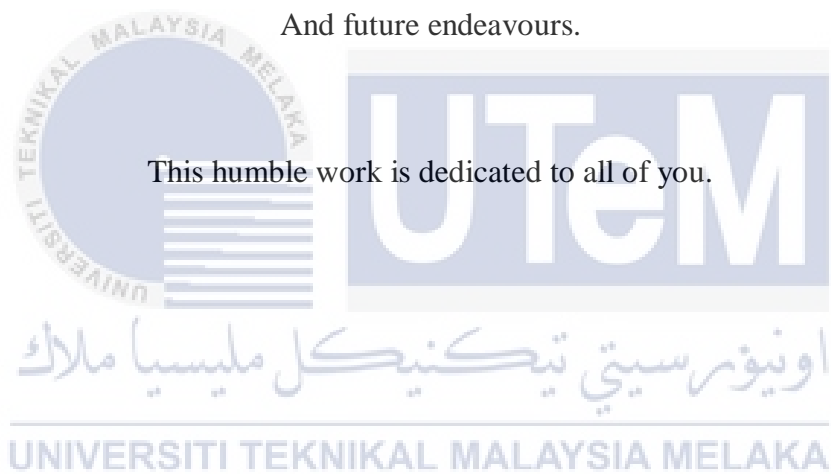
DEDICATION

To my family member especially my beloved parents,

To the people who have supported me throughout the journey,

And future endeavours.

This humble work is dedicated to all of you.



ABSTRACT

TiO₂ coating has drawn great attention in various field of application including the ceramic industry. The limitation of TiO₂ photocatalytic activity that only reacts on short-wavelength ultraviolet irradiation has brought an effort to extend its potential to visible range by reducing the fast rate of electron-hole pair recombination. Hence, doping with semiconductor such as silver (Ag) incorporated TiO₂ is proposed. However, Ag incorporated TiO₂ had some issues where the use of Ag with high concentration decreases the surface charge that can cause an agglomeration of Ag species and reduction to Ag⁰ particles on TiO₂ surface. Lowering the amount of Ag concentration thereafter contributed to the formation of AgO, Ag₂O and Ag⁰. The amount of Ag that can control the particles size, surface area, thermal stability and band gap that contributes towards good photocatalytic performance is still vague and continuously studied. Yet, the works of Ag-TiO₂ coating reported mostly on the surface of glass, metal and fabric instead of ceramic surfaces. Therefore, in this study, the deposition of Ag-TiO₂ coating was carried out on unglazed and glazed ceramic tiles. Firstly, the effect of Degussa P25 on the Ag-TiO₂ coating was studied to decide the needs of Degussa P25 in synthesizing Ag-TiO₂ sol formulation. Later, the effect of Ag content (2.5, 5.0 and 7.5 mol %) on the microstructure (crystalline phase, crystal size, elemental distribution, morphology and cross section surface) of the Ag-TiO₂ coated ceramic tiles (unglazed and glazed) were examined and its photocatalytic performance were tested. This yield to the self-cleaning properties of the intended antibacterial ceramic tiles application. The coatings were heat treated at 500 °C and characterized by Glancing angle X-ray diffraction (GAXRD) and Scanning electron microscopy (SEM), Field electron scanning microscopy (FESEM) coupled Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectrometer (EDX) and further tested for environmental application using methylene blue degradation (MB) under ultraviolet (UV) and visible light irradiation. The results of the present study suggest that Ag-TiO₂ sol can be synthesized without the aid of Degussa P25 where Degussa P25 possibly hinders the formation of Ag metallic. Ag-TiO₂ coating deposited on the unglazed tile was observed sip into the pores of ceramic surfaces. The finding highlights that Ag-TiO₂ coating deposited on unglazed and glazed improved photocatalytic performances at 5.0 mol % Ag content under visible light irradiation. This is because 5.0 mol % Ag content presented uneven small density of cracks over the surface with more Ag demonstrated by surface morphology and elemental mapping. Also, it can be related to their active crystallites that react well upon visible irradiation. Hence it can be deduced that the amount of Ag needed for good photocatalytic performance needs to take into account the substrate and surrounding condition.

KESAN PENAMBAHAN DEGUSSA DAN KANDUNGAN Ag KE ATAS CIRI DAN PRESTASI PEMANGKIN-FOTO SALUTAN Ag-TiO₂ DIENDAPKAN PADA JUBIN SERAMIK

ABSTRAK

Salutan TiO₂ telah menarik perhatian pelbagai bidang aplikasi termasuk industri seramik. Had aktiviti fotobermangkin TiO₂ yang hanya bertindak balas pada penyinaran gelombang pendek ultraungu telah mencetuskan usaha untuk meluaskan potensinya pada gelombang julat boleh dilihat dengan cara mengurangkan kadar pantas penggabungan semula pasangan elektron-lubang. Oleh itu pengedapan dengan bahan separuh pengalir seperti perak (Ag) telah dicadangkan ke dalam TiO₂. Walau bagaimanapun, Ag yang dimasukkan ke dalam TiO₂ dengan kepekatan tinggi boleh mengurangkan cas permukaan yang akan menyebabkan penggumpalan spesies Ag dan penurunan kepada zarah Ag⁰ pada permukaan TiO₂. Sebaliknya, pengurangan jumlah kepekatan Ag menyumbang kepada pembentukan AgO, Ag₂O dan Ag⁰. Jumlah Ag yang boleh mengawal saiz zarah, luas permukaan, kestabilan terma dan jurang jalur kearah prestasi fotobermangkin yang bagus masih kabur dan terus dikaji. Namun, kerja-kerja salutan Ag-TiO₂ yang dilaporkan kebanyakannya adalah pada permukaan kaca, logam dan fabrik dan bukannya permukaan seramik. Dalam kajian ini, pengendapan salutan Ag-TiO₂ telah dijalankan pada jubin seramik tidak berlicau dan licau. Pertama, kesan Degussa P25 pada salutan Ag-TiO₂ telah dikaji untuk menentukan keperluan Degussa P25 dalam mensintesis formulasi sol Ag-TiO₂. Kemudian, kesan kandungan Ag (2.5, 5.0 dan 7.5 mol %) ke atas mikrostruktur (fasa hablur, saiz kristal, taburan unsur, morfologi dan permukaan keratan rentas) jubin seramik tidak berlicau dan licau bersalut Ag-TiO₂ telah diperiksa dan prestasi fotobermangkinnya telah diuji. Ini menghasilkan sifat pembersihan sendiri bagi jubin seramik antibakteria. Salutan telah dirawat haba pada 500 °C dan dicirikan melalui sudut kerling pembelauan sinar-X (GAXRD) dan Mikroskop pengimbasan elektron (SEM), Mikroskop pancaran medan pengimbasan electron (FESEM) ditambah Spektrometer Serakan Tenaga Sinar-X (EDX) dan diuji untuk aplikasi alam sekitar menggunakan degradasi metilena biru (MB) di bawah sinaran ultraungu (UV) dan cahaya nampak. Keputusan kajian ini mencadangkan bahawa sol Ag-TiO₂ boleh disintesis tanpa bantuan Degussa P25 di mana Degussa P25 mungkin menghalang pembentukan logam Ag. Salutan Ag-TiO₂ yang dimendapkan pada jubin tidak berlicau meresap ke dalam liang permukaan seramik. Penemuan ini menyerlahkan bahawa salutan Ag-TiO₂ yang diendapkan pada jubin seramik tidak berlicau dan berlicau meningkatkan prestasi fotobermangkin pada 5.0 mol % Ag di bawah penyinaran cahaya boleh nampak. Ini kerana 5.0 mol % Ag menunjukkan kehadiran rekahan yang tidak sekata dengan ketumpatan kecil di atas permukaan dan lebih banyak Ag hadir pada morfologi permukaan. Ia juga dikaitkan dengan kumin hablur aktif yang bertindak balas dengan baik terhadap sinaran boleh nampak. Oleh itu, dapat disimpulkan bahawa jumlah Ag yang diperlukan untuk prestasi fotobermangkin yang baik perlu mengambil kira substrat dan keadaan sekeliling.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DECLARATION	
APPROVAL	
DEDICATION	
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiii
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xv
LIST OF APPENDICES	xvii
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	xviii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Research Objective	7
1.4 Scope of Research	8
1.5 Contribution of Research	9
1.6 Thesis Outline	9
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Titanium Dioxide (TiO ₂)	11
2.3 Modification of TiO ₂ coating	15
2.3.1 Photocatalytic properties	17
2.3.1.1 Photocatalytic reaction of TiO ₂	19
2.3.2 Enhancement of TiO ₂ photocatalytic properties	21
2.4 Ag-TiO ₂ coating	23
2.4.1 Application of Ag-TiO ₂ as photocatalyst	25
2.5 Sol gel derived Ag-TiO ₂ coating	26
2.5.1 Ag-TiO ₂ sol gel preparation	28
2.5.2 Preparation method and formulation of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	29

2.5.2.1	The use of Degussa P25 as TiO ₂ precursor	30
2.5.2.2	The use of AgNO ₃ as Ag precursor	32
2.5.3	Ag-TiO ₂ sol gel reaction	35
2.5.4	Deposition method of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	36
2.6	Ag-TiO ₂ coating on different substrate	37
2.6.1	Deposition of Ag-TiO ₂ on ceramic substrate	38
2.6.2	Effect of Degussa P25 addition on the crystalline phases and microstructure	40
2.7	Effect of Ag content on the crystalline phase of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	41
2.8	Effect of Ag content on the microstructure of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	44
2.9	Effect of Ag content on the photocatalytic performance of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	48
2.9.1	Degradation under UV light irradiation	51
2.9.2	Degradation under visible light irradiation	53
2.10	Summary	55
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY		56
3.1	Introduction	56
3.2	Experimental Design	56
3.3	Preparation of raw materials	60
3.4	Preparation of ceramic tiles	61
3.4.1	Ceramic tiles cleaning	62
3.4.2	Surface Roughness (<i>R_a</i>) Measurement	64
3.5	Preparation of Ag-TiO ₂ sol gel	64
3.5.1	Preparation of Ag-TiO ₂ sol with incorporation of commercial Degussa P25	64
3.5.2	Preparation of Ag-TiO ₂ sol without incorporation of commercial Degussa P25	66
3.6	Deposition of Ag-TiO ₂ coating with varied Ag content on ceramic tile	68
3.6.1	Deposition method and procedure	69
3.6.2	Heat treatment	70
3.7	Characterization and analysis of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on ceramic tile	71
3.7.1	Crystallographic analyses using GAXRD and XRD	72
3.7.2	Surface morphology analysis and cross section	73
3.7.2.1	Surface morphology analysis using SEM	73
3.7.2.2	Elemental mapping and composition using EDX	74
3.7.2.3	Cross sectional analysis using FESEM	74
3.8	Photocatalytic Performance of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	74
3.9	Summary	77
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		79
4.1	Introduction	79
4.2	The ceramic tiles substrate	80
4.2.1	Crystalline phase analyses	80
4.2.2	Surface morphology analyses	81
4.3	Characterization of Ag-TiO ₂ coating with Degussa P25 and without Degussa P25	83
4.3.1	Crystalline phase analyses	83

4.3.1.1	Effect of Degussa P25 addition on the crystalline phase of TiO ₂ coating	85
4.3.1.2	Effect of Degussa P25 addition on the crystalline phase of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	86
4.4	Characterization of Ag-TiO ₂ coating with varied Ag content	88
4.4.1	Crystalline phase analyses	88
4.4.1.1	Effect of Ag content on the crystalline phases	94
4.4.2	Surface morphology and elemental mapping	95
4.4.2.1	Effect of Ag content on the surface morphology and elemental distribution	106
4.4.3	Cross sectional and elemental mapping	106
4.4.3.1	Effect of Ag content on the cross section microstructure	111
4.5	Effect of of Ag content on the photocatalytic performances of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on ceramic tiles	112
4.5.1	Photocatalytic activity under UV light	112
4.5.2	Photocatalytic activity under visible light	116
4.5.3	The influence of Ag content on the photocatalytic performances of Ag-TiO ₂ coated ceramic tiles	119
CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	127
5.1	Conclusion	127
5.2	Recommendations	129
REFERENCES		131
APPENDICES		151

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	The crystallographic properties of rutile, anatase and brookite (Zhang et al., 2018)	12
2.2	Different synthesis method of TiO ₂	14
2.3	Example of TiO ₂ photocatalyst aided in photocatalytic properties	23
2.4	Deposition of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on different types of substrate	24
2.5	Several types of application of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	26
2.6	Different preparation method and formulation of Ag-TiO ₂ photocatalyst	34
2.7	Different deposition method of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	37
2.8	Ag-TiO ₂ coating on different substrate	38
2.9	Examples of deposition technique on ceramic substrate	39
2.10	Amount of Ag content used for Ag-TiO ₂ synthesise	44
2.11	Band gap value of Ag/TiO ₂ thin film with different annealing temperature (Kamrosni et al., 2022)	51
3.1	The detailed of chemicals for preparation of Ag-TiO ₂ sol	60
3.2	Summary of the samples prepared	70
4.1	Anatase crystallite size of TiO ₂ with and without Degussa P25 coating on unglazed and glazed ceramic tile	86
4.2	Crystallite size of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating on unglazed ceramic tile	90
4.3	Crystallite size TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating on glazed ceramic tile	93
4.4	SEM/EDX elemental mapping of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating with varied Ag content deposited on unglazed tile	101

4.5	SEM/EDX elemental mapping of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating with varied Ag content deposited on glazed tile	104
4.6	The characterization of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on ceramic tiles that influences the photocatalytic performances	120



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Refinement of TiO ₂ by sulphate process (Greenwood and Earnshaw, 1997)	13
2.2	Refinement of TiO ₂ by chloride process (Greenwood and Earnshaw, 1997)	13
2.3	TiO ₂ crystal structure of (a) rutile (b) anatase (c) brookite phase structure (Ulrike, 2003, Regonini et al., 2013, Sze-Mun et al., 2014)	18
2.4	Photocatalytic reaction of TiO ₂ water splitting (Irfan et al., 2022)	21
2.5	Surface morphology of Degussa P25 powder (Wang et al., 2012)	31
2.6	SEM of Ag/TiO ₂ film annealed at 450° (a) pure TiO ₂ , (b) doped TiO ₂ 0.5 g Ag and (c) TiO ₂ doped 1.0 g Ag (Halin et al., 2018)	45
2.7	SEM micrograph and surface morphology of Ag/TiO ₂ thin film with different annealing temperature, (a) non-annealing, (b) 300°C, (c) 400°C, (d) 500°C and (e) 600°C (Kamrosni et al., 2022)	47
2.8	Mechanism of Ag-TiO ₂ particles showing the effect of Ag concentration on particles size, nature and location of silver species in low and high silver-containing samples (Mogal Sajid et al., 2014)	48
2.9	Photocatalytic mechanism of Ag-TiO ₂ (Zheng et al., 2019)	52
2.10	Schematic of mechanism of Ag-TiO ₂ photocatalysts under Visible light irradiation (Mao et al., 2019)	54
3.1	The experimental flowchart	59
3.2	Dimension measurement of (a) unglazed and (b) glazed ceramic tile	62

3.3	Cleaning process of unglazed and glazed ceramic tiles in ultrasonic bath	63
3.4	Preparation procedure for cleaned unglazed and glazed ceramic tiles	63
3.5	Preparation of Ag-TiO ₂ P25 sol with incorporation of Degussa P25	66
3.6	Preparation of Ag-TiO ₂ sol	67
3.7	Ag-TiO ₂ coating deposited on (a) unglazed and (b) glazed ceramic tiles	69
3.8	Dip coating machine	70
3.9	Heating profile of Ag-TiO ₂ coating	71
3.10	Schematic diagram of photocatalytic test for MB degradation	76
4.1	XRD pattern of unglazed ceramic tile	81
4.2	XRD pattern of glazed ceramic tile	81
4.3	The SEM/EDX of unglazed ceramic tile	82
4.4	The SEM/EDX of glazed ceramic tile	83
4.5	GAXRD pattern of TiO ₂ coating with Degussa P25 and without Degussa P25 deposited on unglazed ceramic tiles	84
4.6	GAXRD pattern of TiO ₂ coating with Degussa P25 and without Degussa P25 deposited on glazed ceramic tiles	85
4.7	GAXRD pattern of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating with Degussa P25 addition deposited on ceramic tiles	87
4.8	GAXRD pattern of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating with varied Ag content deposited on unglazed ceramic tiles	89
4.9	FWHM of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coated on unglazed tile	91
4.10	GAXRD pattern of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating with varied Ag content deposited on glazed ceramic tile	92
4.11	FWHM of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coated on glazed tile	94

4.12	SEM of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating on unglazed ceramic tile	97
4.13	SEM of TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating on glazed ceramic tile	98
4.14	SEM/EDX on the cross-section of (a) TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating at (b) 2.5 mol % Ag, (c) 5.0 mol % Ag and (d) 7.5 mol % Ag content deposited on unglazed ceramic tile	108
4.15	Cross section of (a) TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating at (b) 2.5 mol % Ag, (c) 5.0 mol % Ag and (d) 7.5 mol % Ag content deposited on glazed ceramic tile	109
4.16	SEM/EDX on the cross-section of (a) TiO ₂ and Ag-TiO ₂ coating at (b) 2.5 mol % Ag, (c) 5.0 mol % Ag and (d) 7.5 mol % Ag content deposited on glazed ceramic tile	111
4.17	Photocatalytic activity of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on unglazed tile exposed under UV light irradiation	113
4.18	Phototonic efficiency of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on unglazed tile exposed under UV light irradiation	113
4.19	Photocatalytic activity of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on glazed tile exposed under UV light irradiation	115
4.20	Photonic efficiency of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on glazed tile exposed under UV light irradiation	115
4.21	Photocatalytic activity of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on unglazed tile exposed under visible light irradiation	117
4.22	Photonic efficiency of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on unglazed tile exposed under visible light irradiation	117

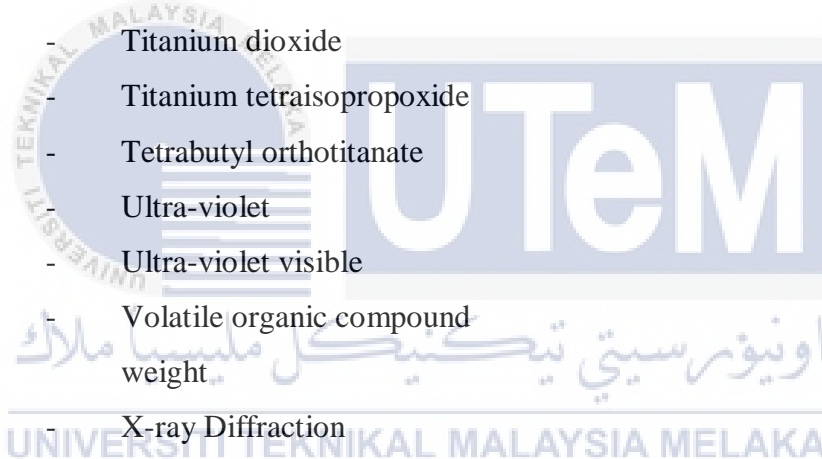
4.23	Photocatalytic activity of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on glazed tile exposed under visible light irradiation	118
4.24	Photonic efficiency of Ag-TiO ₂ coating on glazed tile exposed under visible light irradiation	119
4.25	Schematic diagram of Ag-TiO ₂ coating deposited on unglazed ceramic tile	126
4.26	Schematic diagram of Ag-TiO ₂ coating deposited on glazed ceramic tile	126



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

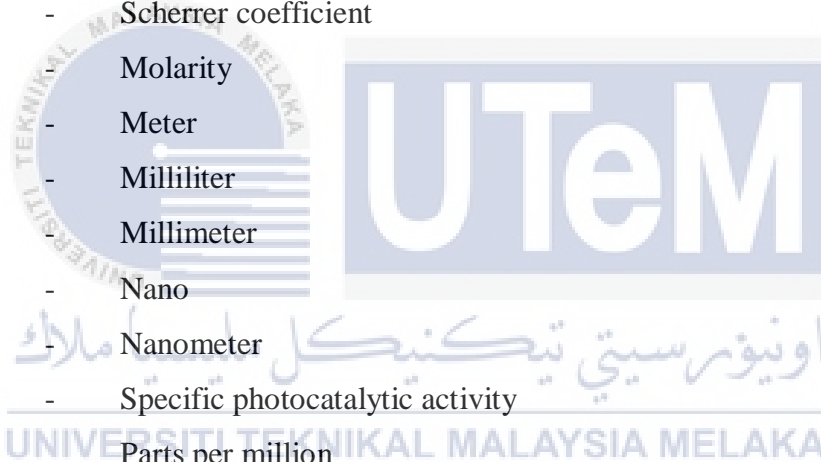
A	-	Ampere
Ag	-	Silver
Au	-	Gold
Al	-	Aluminium
AgNO ₃	-	Silver nitrate
Ag/TiO ₂	-	Silver doped TiO ₂
Ba	-	Barium
Ca	-	Calcium
Cl	-	Chlorine
CuO	-	Copper oxide
DI	-	Dionised
DSCCs	-	Dye Sensitized Solar Cells
EDX	-	Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy
EtOH	-	Ethanol
Fe	-	Ferum
FWHM	-	Full width half maximum
GAXRD	-	Glancing Angle X-ray diffraction
HCl	-	Hydrochloric acid
H ₂ O	-	Water
ITO	-	Indium tin oxide
ISO	-	International Organization for Standard
JCPDS	-	Joint committee on powder diffraction standards
K	-	Potassium
MB	-	Methylene Blue
Mg	-	Magnesium
MWCNT	-	Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes
N	-	Nitrogen
O	-	Oxygen
PAD	-	Photo-Assisted Deposition

Pt	-	Platinum
pH	-	Potential Hydrogen
ppm	-	Part per million
P25	-	Degussa 25
rpm	-	Revolution per minute
ROS	-	Reactive Oxygen Species
SEM	-	Scanning Electron Microscope
SPR	-	Surface resonance
Sn	-	Tin
Si	-	Silicon
Ti	-	Titanium
TiO ₂	-	Titanium dioxide
TTiP	-	Titanium tetraisopropoxide
TBOT	-	Tetrabutyl orthotitanate
UV	-	Ultra-violet
UV-Vis	-	Ultra-violet visible
VOC	-	Volatile organic compound
Wt	-	weight
XRD	-	X-ray Diffraction
Zn	-	Zinc



LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	-	Absorbance
cm	-	Centimeter
ca.	-	Circa/approximately
D, d	-	Diameter
e.g	-	Exempli gratia
E_P		Radiation intensity
eV	-	Electron volt
g	-	Gram
k	-	Scherrer coefficient
M		Molarity
m	-	Meter
ml	-	Milliliter
mm	-	Millimeter
n	-	Nano
nm	-	Nanometer
P_{MB}	-	Specific photocatalytic activity
ppm	-	Parts per million
R	-	Specific degradation rate
R_a	-	Surface roughness
s	-	Second
t_{ave}	-	Average thickness
V	-	Volume
W	-	Watt
ζ_{MB}	-	Photonic efficiency
μ	-	Micro
λ	-	Wavelength
°	-	Degree
°C	-	Degree celcius
%	-	Percentage



θ	-	Bragg angle
\geq	-	More than or equal to
\leq	-	Less than or equal to
\pm	-	Plus minus
ΔA_λ		Absorption difference



LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	XRD of Pre-calcined Degussa P25 nanoparticles at for 1 hour at constant heating rate of 10°C/min	151



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journals

1. **Hafizah, N. Z.**, Juoi, J. M., Zulkifli, M. R., and Musa, M.A, 2020. Effect of Silver Content on the Crystalline Phase and Microstructure of TiO₂ Coating Deposited on Unglazed Ceramics Tile. *International Journal of Automotive and Mechanical Engineering (IJAME)*, 17(3), pp. 8179 – 8185.
2. **Hafizah, N. Z.**, Juoi, J. M., Zulkifli, M. R., and Johari, N. D., 2023. Effect of Silver Doping on the Microstructure and Photocatalytic Performance of Ag-TiO₂ Coatings on Unglazed Ceramic. *Journal of Advanced Research in Micro and Nano Engineering*, 15(3) - accepted and submitted to publication 2024.

Conferences and Proceedings

1. **Hafizah, N. Z.**, Juoi, J.M., Zulkifli, M. R., Musa, M.A., 2019. Investigation on the Method of Ag Addition into TiO₂ Coating Deposited on Unglazed Ceramic Tile. *Proceedings of Innovative Research and Industrial Dialogue 2018 (IRID'18)*, pp. 142 – 143.
2. Paper presentation: Effect of Silver Content on the Crystalline Phase and Microstructure of TiO₂ Coating Deposited on Unglazed Ceramics Tiles. **In 11th Malaysian Technical Universities Conference on Engineering & Technology “Communitising Technology in the Context of Industrial Revolution 4.0”**(MUCET 2019). 19 – 22 November 2019. Bukit Gambang Resort City, Kuantan.

Exhibitions

1. Poster presentation: Addition of Ag into TiO₂ Coating via Dipping and Precursor Method. **In** *Research Showcase of Innovative Research and Industrial Dialogue 2018 (IRID'18)*. 18 July 2018. Block B, FKP and PPS Auditorium



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ceramic materials are one of the widely use material in various different field. It includes such as automotive, military, refractory, biotechnology, electrical, electronic and magnetic fields. The applications select its own appropriate property from ceramic materials and that's why ceramic are used in almost every field. In military, ceramic was used for making weapons, missile guidance and defence system because of the hardness and nonreactive properties. A certain use of refractories involved high technology ceramic and for biotechnology to strengthen tissues organ (Dash et al., 2023). The application of ceramic has been well developed and proposed frequently. The product of ceramic tile meanwhile is gaining popularity in both residential and commercial use because of its limitless potential. Tile is the most favourite use design materials for both in dry and wet area. Often can be seen in kitchen and bathroom renovation. The requirement of clean surfaces in every edge of our everyday live is a priority need because it involves our healthy lifestyle. Therefore, the simple easy cleaning or self-cleaning surfaces has been under the focus of nanotechnology.

Surfaces of different structure and nanocoating had become an interest among the researcher. Coating is priority in the furnishing process of a product. It was done on most of the surfaces such as ceramics, metals, polymers and wooden surfaces. There are two types of surface coating that are liquid base coating and powder coating. Both of them have different purposes and benefits. Liquid base surface coating mainly focus on corrosion