Study of NiK/yCe_xZr_{1-x}O₂-MaAl₂O₃ catalysts in cracking reaction of vacuum residue with steam

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In this study, NiK/yCe_xZr_{1-x}O₂-MaAl₂O₃ catalysts were synthesized by dispersing different amounts of $Ce_xZr_{1-x}O_2$ phase onto macroporous $-Al_2O_3$ as supports, and then subsequently impregnating Ni and K into the supports, which possessed advantageous properties, such as a high surface area, ordered macropores and high oxygen storage capacity. Moreover, the introduction of Ni and K metals into these supports created more oxygen vacancies in them. These catalysts were applied to the cracking of vacuum residual oil with steam in a fixed bed reactor under atmospheric pressure. The macroporous alumina played an important role in enhancing the accessibility of large molecules to the active sites, while the high oxygen storage capacity (OSC) over the $Ce_xZr_{1-x}O2$ phase improved the oxidative cracking rate. Therefore, the lighter oil fraction from the vacuum residue increased significantly.