The Effect of  $La_2O_3$  content on Ni- $La_2O_3$ -Ce<sub>0.8</sub>Zr<sub>0.2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Catalysts for low temperature Steam Reforming of Methane

Ni–La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>–Ce<sub>0.8</sub>Zr<sub>0.2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content has been applied to low temperature steam reforming of methane. The catalysts are prepared by co–precipitation method. To understand the physicochemical properties of catalysts, various techniques has been carried out such as BET, XRD, TPR, H<sub>2</sub>–chemisorption. BET surface area, Ni dispersion, crystallite size of Ni, and reducibility are strongly dependent on the La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content. Among the prepared catalysts, Ni–La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>–Ce<sub>0.8</sub>Zr<sub>0.2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> catalyst which is contained 70 wt.% La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> shows the highest CH<sub>4</sub> conversion (X<sub>CH4</sub> > 53.3%). This result is mainly due to high Ni dispersion, small crystallite size of Ni and high reducibility.