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**EFFECT OF ELECTROSPUN POLYVINYL ALCOHOL (PVA) COATING ON THE  
ELECTROCHEMICAL CORROSION OF Cu Al ELECTRODES**

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## ABSTRACT

### **EFFECT OF ELECTROSPUN POLYVINYL ALCOHOL (PVA) COATING ON THE ELECTROCHEMICAL CORROSION OF Cu Al ELECTRODES**

Corrosion of metals such as copper (Cu) and aluminium (Al) in chloride-rich environments remains a significant concern, particularly in electrochemical applications that involve saline electrolytes. One such example is the saltwater lamp-based energy device, where saltwater is used to generate low-voltage electricity through electrochemical reactions between dissimilar metal electrodes. Although these systems offer a simple, low-cost, and sustainable alternative for small-scale energy generation, their performance is often hindered by the rapid corrosion of metal electrodes in the presence of aggressive chloride ions. To improve the durability of such systems, surface protection strategies are essential. Among various protection methods, electrospun polymer coatings have emerged as a promising solution due to their high surface area, porosity, and ability to form uniform protective barriers. Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), a biodegradable and water-soluble polymer, has shown potential as a corrosion inhibitor, yet its application on Cu and Al electrodes under varying salinity conditions remains underexplored. In this study, PVA nanofibers were deposited onto metal substrates via electrospinning using a 10 wt% PVA solution with feed rate of 0.3 ml/h, an applied voltage of 10 kV, and a tip-to-collector distance of 15 cm. The morphology and chemical composition of the fibers were characterized using optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR). Corrosion performance was evaluated through weight loss analysis, corrosion rate measurements, and inhibition efficiency calculations after immersion in 0.5 M, 0.88 M, and 1.25 M NaCl solutions, as well as in 0.88 M seawater. It was observed that the PVA-coated electrodes showed lower corrosion rates in all solutions tested. In 0.88 M NaCl, a solution that closely simulate seawater salinity concentration, the inhibition efficiencies were 82.47% for copper and 74.63% for aluminium, which is notably higher than in natural seawater, where the efficiencies were 64.82% for copper and 55.62% for aluminium, respectively. FTIR analysis confirmed reduced hydroxide formation in coated samples, while SEM-EDX revealed lower accumulation of corrosion products. Thus, this show that the coating performed better in controlled chloride conditions compare to natural seawater.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	v
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	vi
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	viii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	ix
<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	xi
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xii
 <b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	 1
1.1 Research background	1
1.2 Problem statement	4
1.3 Research questions	4
1.4 Objectives	5
1.5 Significance of study	5
1.6 Scope of research	6
1.7 Expected output/outcomes/implication	6
 <b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	 8
2.1 Source of electricity	8
2.1.1 Electricity generation: Malaysia and global perspective	10
2.2 Saltwater lamp	11
2.2.1 Copper and aluminium as electrode	13
2.3 Electrochemical corrosion	14
2.4 Electrode protection	17
2.4.1 Coated electrode	19
2.4.1.1 Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)	20
2.5 Coating techniques	21
2.6 Electrospinning	23
 <b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>	 24
3.1 Materials	24
3.2 Chemicals	24
3.3 Instrument	24
3.4 Sample preparation	25
3.4.1 Surface treatment	25
3.4.2 Preparation of PVA solution	25
3.4.3 Preparation of electrospun PVA coating	25
3.5 Preparation of seawater and NaCl medium	26
3.6 Immersion tests	27
3.7 Corrosion evaluation	28
3.8 Characterization of PVA fibers	30
3.8.1 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR)	30

3.8.2	Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (SEM-EDX)	31
3.8.3	Optical microscope	31
3.9	Research flowchart	32
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>		<b>33</b>
4.1	Electrospun nanofibers PVA	33
4.1.1	Optical microscope and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	33
4.1.2	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR)	35
4.2	Corrosion evaluation	37
4.2.1	Surface analysis	37
4.2.2	Corrosion rate	47
4.2.3	Inhibition efficiency	49
4.3	Qualitative observation	50
4.4	Summary of experimental findings	52
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		<b>54</b>
5.1	Conclusion	54
5.2	Recommendations	56
<b>CITED REFERENCES</b>		<b>57</b>
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE</b>		<b>65</b>