

Contents

Title	Page No.
Title of thesis	i
Dedication	ii
Certificate	iii
Declaration by the candidate and certificate by the supervisor	iv
Copyright transfer certificate	v
Acknowledgment	vi-vii
Contents	viii-xiii
List of Figures	xiv-xix
List of Tables	xx
List of Symbols/Abbreviations	xxi-xxii
Preface	xxiii-xxv
Chapter 1: General Introduction and Literature Survey	1-42
1.1. Energy: Global Trends and Policy Perspectives	1
1.2. Comprehensive Overview of Sustainable Technologies	4
1.2.1. Fuel Cells	4
1.2.1.1. proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells (PEMFCs)	6
1.2.1.2. Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFCs)	6
1.2.1.3. Alkaline Fuel Cells (AFCs)	7
1.2.1.4. Molten Carbonate Fuel Cells (MCFCs)	7
1.2.1.5. Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cells (PAFCs)	8
1.2.1.6. Direct Methanol Fuel Cells (DMFCs)	9
1.2.2. Metal Air Batteries	9
1.2.3. Water Splitting	12
1.2.3.1. Electrochemical Water Splitting	13
1.3. Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER)	14
1.3.1. Mechanism in OER	15
1.3.1.1. The Adsorbate Evolution Mechanism (AEM)	16

1.3.1.2. The Lattice Oxygen Mechanism (LOM)	17
1.3.1.3. The Oxide Pathway Mechanism (OPM)	19
1.4. Literature Review	21
1.5. Key Parameters for Evaluating OER Activity	25
1.5.1. Onset Potential and Overpotential (η)	26
1.5.2. Tafel Slope (b)	26
1.5.3. Electrochemically Active Surface Area (ECSA)	27
1.5.4. Reaction Order (p)	28
1.5.5. Standard Electrochemical Energy of Activation (E_a or $\Delta H_{el}^{0\ddagger}$)	29
1.5.6. Standard Electrochemical Enthalpy of Activation ($\Delta H^{0\ddagger}$)	30
1.5.7. Standard Electrochemical Entropy of Activation ($\Delta S^{0\ddagger}$)	31
1.5.8. Stability	32
1.6. Objectives and Scope of the Thesis	33
1.7. References	36
Chapter 2: Characterization Techniques	43-73
2.1. Characterization techniques	43
2.2. Structural analysis	44
2.2.1. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR)	44
2.2.2. X-ray diffraction patterns (XRD)	46
2.2.3. Raman Spectroscopy	48
2.3. Morphological analysis	49
2.3.1. Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM)	49
2.3.2. High resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM)	51
2.3.3. Selected area electron diffraction pattern (SAED)	53
2.3.4. Brunauer-Emmett-Teller surface area (BET)	55
2.4. Elemental analysis	57
2.4.1. X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)	57
2.4.2. Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS)	60
2.4.3. Elemental mapping	61

2.5. Electrochemical analysis	61
2.5.1. Open circuit potential (OCP)	64
2.5.2. Cyclic voltammetry (CV)	64
2.5.3. Linear sweep voltammetry (LSV)	67
2.5.4. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS)	67
2.5.5. Chronopotentiometry (CP)	70
2.6. References	71

Chapter 3: Synthesis, characterization, and electrocatalytic performance of magnesium doped bismuth copper titanate (BCTO) for oxygen evolution reaction 74-115

3.1. Abstract	74
3.2. Introduction	74
3.3. Experimental	77
3.3.1. Materials	77
3.3.2. Synthesis of BCTO and Mg doped BCTO	77
3.3.3. Preparation of working electrode	77
3.4. Characterizations	78
3.4.1. Physicochemical characterizations	78
3.4.2. Electrochemical characterizations	78
3.5. Results and discussion	80
3.5.1. Physicochemical Characterizations	80
3.5.1.1. XRD	80
3.5.1.2. FTIR	81
3.5.1.3. Raman Spectroscopy	82
3.5.1.4. FE-SEM	84
3.5.1.5. HR-TEM	87
3.5.1.6. XPS	90
3.5.2. Electrochemical analysis	91

3.5.2.1. OER Study	91
3.5.2.2. Thermodynamic Study	103
3.5.2.3. Stability and durability	106
3.5.2.4. OER Mechanism	107
3.6. Conclusion	108
3.7. References	110

**Chapter 4: Development and evaluation of electrochemical performance
of cobalt tungstate $\text{Co}_x\text{W}_{2-x}\text{O}_4$; $x = 0.5, 1.0, 1.5$ catalysts for alkaline
water oxidation: Tailoring composition for optimal activity** 116-154

4.1. Abstract	116
4.2. Introduction	116
4.3. Experimental	119
4.3.1. Materials	119
4.3.2. Preparation of $\text{Co}_x\text{W}_{2-x}\text{O}_4$	119
4.3.3. Electrode fabrication	120
4.4. Characterizations	121
4.4.1. Physicochemical characterizations	121
4.4.2. Electrochemical characterizations	122
4.5. Results and discussion	123
4.5.1. Physicochemical characterizations	123
4.5.1.1. XRD	123
4.5.1.2. FT-IR	125
4.5.1.3. Raman Spectroscopy analysis	126
4.5.1.4. HR-TEM	128
4.5.1.5. XPS	129
4.5.2. Electrochemical Characterizations	131
4.5.2.1. OER Study	131
4.5.2.2. Thermodynamic Study	140
4.5.2.3. Stability and durability	143

4.6. OER Mechanism	144
4.7. Conclusion	146
4.8. References	148
Chapter 5: Synthesis, characterization, and OER activity of polypyrrole integrated CoWO₄ nanoparticles in alkaline solution	155-196
5.1. Abstract	155
5.2. Introduction	155
5.3. Experimental	158
5.3.1. Materials	158
5.3.2. Synthesis of Polypyrrole (ppy)	158
5.3.3. Preparation of CoWO ₄	159
5.3.4. Preparation of CoWO ₄ /ppy	159
5.3.5. Electrode fabrication	160
5.4. Characterizations	160
5.4.1. Physicochemical characterizations	160
5.4.2. Electrochemical characterizations	161
5.5. Results and discussion	162
5.5.1. Physicochemical characterizations	162
5.5.1.1. XRD analysis	162
5.5.1.2. FT-IR analysis	164
5.5.1.3. HR-TEM analysis	165
5.5.1.4. XPS analysis	168
5.5.1.5. BET analysis	169
5.5.2. Electrochemical analysis	171
5.5.2.1. OER Study	171
5.5.2.2. Stability and durability	182
5.5.2.3. Thermodynamic Study	182
5.5.2.4. OER Mechanism	186
5.6. Conclusion	188

5.7. References	190
Chapter 6: Summary and Conclusion	197-201
6.1. Summary	197
6.2. Future scope and perspective	200
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	202
LIST OF CONFERENCES	204