

**USING DIAGNOSIS GAS ANALYSIS AS A TOOL FOR POWER
TRANSFORMER MAINTENANCE**

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USING DIAGNOSIS GAS ANALYSIS AS A TOOL FOR POWER
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ABSTRACT

The importance of Diagnosis Gas Analysis (DGA) has been recognized by electrical industry nowadays as one of the tools for power transformer maintenance to monitor the performance of transformers and provide early information about the health of a transformer. The lifespan of a transformer depends on the condition of the transformer oil. Transformer problem causes an increase in temperature of transformer components, thereby increasing the temperature of the insulating. When the oil is exposed to heat, it will result in the formation of a number of gases dissolved in transformer oil. The purpose of this research is to investigate the relationship between dissolved gases in transformer oil and its relationship to the damages suffered by the transformer. This research used oil samples taken from a number of power transformers installed in Tenaga Nasional Berhad, an electrical utility company in Malaysia. Oil samples were sent to a laboratory for analysis. This research is aimed at finding the causes and consequently identify damages to the components by using five methods of interpretation using the DGA namely Rogers Ratio Method, Doernenburg Ratio Method, IEC Method Ratio, CIGRE Ratio Method and Duval Triangle Method Ratio Method. Three actual cases are discussed in this thesis based on the investigation and repair works on 132kV and 275kV transformers. It is found that DGA can be used to locate defects in the components of the transformer.

ABSTRAK

Kepentingan *Diagnosis Gas Analysis (DGA)* telah dikenal pasti oleh industri elektrik pada masa ini sebagai salah satu alat penyelenggaraan alatubah kuasa. Ini adalah untuk meninjau prestasi alatubah tersebut dan memberi informasi awal mengenai kesihatan sesebuah alatubah. Jangka hayat sesebuah alatubah berhubungkait dengan keadaan minyak alatubah. Alatubah yang bermasalah akan menyebabkan peningkatan suhu kepada komponen alatubah, seterusnya peningkatan suhu juga akan berlaku pada minyak penebatnya. Apabila minyak penebat terdedah kepada haba, ianya akan mengakibatkan pembentukan gas yang larut di dalam minyak alatubah. Tujuan penyelidikan ini dijalankan adalah untuk mengkaji hubungan antara gas-gas yang terlarut di dalam minyak alatubah dan pertaliannya dengan kerosakan yang dialami oleh alatubah tersebut. Penyelidikan ini menggunakan sampel minyak yang diambil daripada beberapa alatubah kuasa yang dipasang di Tenaga Nasional Berhad, sebuah syarikat utiliti elektrik di Malaysia. Sample minyak ini kemudian dihantar ke makmal untuk dianalisa. Penyelidikan ini adalah bertujuan untuk mencari punca dan seterusnya mengenalpasti kerosakan pada komponen dengan menggunakan lima kaedah interpretasi menggunakan DGA iaitu kaedah nisbah Rogers, kaedah nisbah Doernenburg, kaedah nisbah IEC, kaedah nisbah CIGRE dan kaedah Segi Tiga Duval. Tiga kes sebenar telah dibincangkan di dalam tesis ini berdasarkan kajian dan kerja-kerja pembaikan pada alatubah 132 kV dan 275 kV. Ke-kes ini telah dibincangkan secara terperinci dan adalah dididapati DGA boleh digunakan untuk mencari kerosakan komponen didalam alatubah.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	LIST OF TABLE	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
1	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1 Overview: Background of the research	1
	1.2 Objective	2
	1.3 Problem Statement	3
	1.4 Project Scope	3
	1.5 Project Report Outline	4
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	
	2.1 Dissolved Gas Analysis	5
	2.2 Transformer	11
	2.2.1 Cores	12
	2.2.2 Magnetic shielding	14
	2.3 Studies on DGA interpretation technique	17
	2.4 Methods use in the DGA analysis	23
	2.4.1 Rogers Ratio Method	23
	2.4.2 Doernenburg Ratio Method	25
	2.4.3 IEC Ratio Method (IEC 60599)	25
	2.4.4 CIGRE Ratio Method	27

	2.4.5 Duval Triangle Method	28
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	30
3.1	Collection and treatment of data	31
3.2	Definition of terms	34
3.3	Limitations	36
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1	Presentation of research study	37
4.2	Case Study 1 – Research on transformer 275/132kV, 240MVA at Sub-station Cahaya Baru, Pasir Gudang Johor	38
4.2.1	Analyses of the results for Case Study No.1.	40
4.2.2	Investigation on Transformer No.1, Sub-Station Cahaya Baru.	42
4.3	Case Study 2 - Research on transformer 132/11kV, 30 MVA at Sub-Station Taman University, Skudai, Johor.	48
4.3.1	Analyses of the results for Case Study No.2	51
4.3.2	Investigation on Transformer No.1, Sub-Station Taman University	52
4.4	Case Study 3 - Research on transformer No. 2 & No.1, 275/132kV, 180MVA at Sub-station Skudai, Johor.	56
4.4.1	Transformer No.2 275/132kV, 180MVA	

4.4.2	Analyses of the results for Case Study 3 on Transformer No.2.	56 57
4.4.3	Investigation on Transformer No.2, Sub-Station Skudai.	59
4.4.4	Transformer No.1, Sub-Station Skudai	
4.4.5	Analyses of the results for Case Study 3 on Transformer No.1.	61 62
4.4.6	Investigation on Transformer No.2, Sub-Station Skudai.	63
5	CONCLUSION	
5.1	Conclusion	72
5.2	Contribution of the Research	75
5.3	Recommendation for Future Research	75
	REFERENCES	76
	Appendix A	79

LIST OF TABLE

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Information contained in transformer oil	5
2.2	Formation of energy bond when exposed to heat	8
2.3	Gases produced in a transformer	8
2.4	Gases release versus temperature	9
2.5	IEEE Dissolved gas concentration limits	10
2.6	Characteristic of the fault identified by the gas imitation	19
2.7	Gas concentration and the level of risk condition	19
2.8	Type of fault and the condition	21
2.9	Relation between transformer age and hot spot temperature	22
2.10	Rogers ratios method corresponding to fault characteristic	23
2.11	Rogers ratios method calculation	24
2.12	Doernenburg ratio method	25
2.13	Doernenburg ratio method calculation	25
2.14	IEC Ratio Method interpretation table	26
2.15	IEC Ratio Method calculation	27
2.16	CIGRE Ratio Method interpretation	27
2.17	CIGRE Ratio Method calculation	27

2.18	Duval Ratio Method calculation	29
2.19	Duval Triangle Fault Diagnosis	29
3.1	IEEE standard as a reference	30
3.2	Sample of Sticker	31
3.3	Percentage of Gases Increment versus level of Fault	32
3.4	Steps to carry trending analysis	34
3.5	Criterion of the classification risk in transformer operation	34
3.6	Prediction of type of fault defined by IEEE	35
4.1	Details of transformer at Sub-station Cahaya Baru	39
4.2	DGA test results for Transformer 1 at Sub-station Cahaya Baru	39
4.3	Calculation and prediction of fault for Case Study 1	41
4.4	Continuity test results summary	45
4.5	Ideal results for continuity test	45
4.6	Details of transformer at Sub-station Taman University	48
4.7	Insulation test results for Transformer no.1 at Sub-station Taman University	49
4.8	Case Study 2 - DGA Results Before & After Tripping	50
4.9	Calculation and prediction of fault for Case Study 2	51

4.10	DGA test results after transformer repaired.	55
4.11	Details of Transformer no. 2 at Sub-station Skudai, Johor	56
4.12	DGA test results for transformer no.2 at Sub-station Skudai.	57
4.13	Calculation and prediction of fault for Case Study 3 (Transformer No.2)	57
4.14	Details of Transformer no.1 at Sub-station Skudai.	61
4.15	DGA test results for Transformer no.1 at Sub-station Skudai.	61
4.16	Calculation and prediction of fault for Case Study 3 (Transformer No.1)	62
5.1	Thesis summaries	73

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Analogy between human blood and transformer oil	7
2.2	Combustible Gas Generation versus Temperature	10
2.3	General View of Power Transformer	11
2.4	Three-phase, Three-limb cores	12
2.5	Three-phase, Five-limb cores	12
2.6	An example of a core	13
2.7	The core laminations are insulated from earth and earthed at one point only	14
2.8	MS is installed on the wall of main tank	15
2.9	Magnetic Shunt Architecture	16
2.10	Thermal Fracture of the Hydrocarbon Chain Molecules	18
2.11	Extracting the gases from the oil via a high vacuum apparatus	19
2.12	Transformer aging rate vs. temperature	22
2.13	Duval Triangle	28
3.1	Oil sampling (extracting) and analysis	33
3.2	Special test in laboratory	33
4.1	Trending of DGA for transformer no.1 275/132kV at Sub-Station cahaya Baru, Pasir Gudang Johor	40
4.2	Arrangement of MS in main tank.	43
4.3	Magnetic Shunt Brass with carbon marks due to overheating	43
4.4	Burning marks also found around the MS core.	44
4.5	Over a long period, it can cause overheating	44
4.6	Comparison of the DGA results before and after transformer tripping.	49

4.7	Overview of the leads and regulator in the transformer	53
4.8	Leads and structure at HV side area	53
4.9	Outer cylinder and starting and ending conductors (Yellow phase fine regulating winding)	53
4.10	Burn marks at laminated wood support	54
4.11	Flashover marks at ending conductor (Yellow phase fine regulating winding)	54
4.12	Insulation paper of conductor (Yellow phase fine regulating winding)	54
4.13	Transformer 275/132kV on Fire at PMU Skudai	60
4.14	Bulging & damaged of transformer 275/132kVat PMU Skudai (side view)	60
4.15	Transformer component arrangement view 1	64
4.16	Transformer component arrangement view 2	64
4.17	Transformer component arrangement view 3	65
4.18	Transformer component arrangement view 4	65
4.19	Transformer component arrangement view 5	66
4.20	Sign of overheating at center limb core sheet	67
4.21	Sign of overheating at core sheet insulation	67
5.1	Gas comparisons for three case studies	73

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DGA	-	Dissolved Gas Analysis
TNB	-	Tenaga Nasional Berhad
MTM	-	Malaysian Transformer Manufacture
IEE	-	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
HV	-	High Voltage
Ppm	-	Part Per Million

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview : Background of the research

A transformer is a static electrical device, which transform alternating current (AC) of electrical power from one voltage to another voltage keeping the frequency same involving no continuously moving parts, used in electric power systems to transfer power between circuits through the use of electromagnetic induction. Most of the power transformers are filled with a fluid that serves several purposes. The fluid acts as a dielectric media, an insulator, and as a heat transfer agent. The most common type of fluid used in transformers is of a mineral oil origin. There are insulating materials that may be superior to mineral oil with respect to both dielectric and thermal properties. However, to date, none has achieved the requisite combination of equal or better performance at an equal or better price. Consequently, mineral oil continues to serve as the major type of liquid insulation used in electrical transformer.

In this research, the topic of discussion will be limited to those transformers that utilize the mineral oil type fluids. As human being can detect the abnormality and diseases in the body by doing blood test sampling, transformer's oil sampling can also be used to find information to knowing the health's condition of the transformer. This technique is called Diagnosis Gas Analysis (DGA). According to scientific finding, fluid or transformer oil contains over 70% of diagnostic

information and the assessment during the transformer on load is the most effective.
[1]

In the utility business sector nowadays, it is vital to use prediction based maintenance for monitoring the performance of the power transformer in order to avoid system failure. It is not only because the replacement will incur highly cost but also interruption of power supply to consumers is no longer accepted.

This research study will discuss the advantages of using information from oil itself to monitor transformer condition by analyzing the slowly changes of gas pattern concentrated in the oil and relate it with the deterioration of transformer's health. Rectification work can be done before it reaches the danger zone. Maintenance people are also having more convenient time to prepare for the remedial. The DGA for selected power transformers were analyzed. The analysis will be then to be used to validate potential incipient fault in power transformers under investigation and to recommend preventive actions that can be carried out to avoid these faults from occurring.

1.2 Objective

There were three objectives had to be achieved for this project. Firstly was to identify the problematic power transformer based on the DGA results by studying the relationship of gas concentration in the mineral oil and correlating it with the health condition of the transformer. Secondly was using the five (5) interpretation methods of DGA and did the comparison of the result. The methods used were Rogers Ratio Method, Doernenburg Ratio Method, IEC Ratio Method, CIGRE Ratio Method and Duval Triangle Method. Finally, to locate the defective components in the transformer based on the density of gas produced and use the best interpretation method to investigate the problem and hence repair the transformer.

1.3 Problem Statement

DGA is becoming popular and widely used in preventative maintenance technique today to monitor condition of the transformers. It can be used as pre-fault analysis because of its ability to tell what is happening based on the indication of information gathered earlier before actual fault happen (prevention is better than cure). Rogers Ratio Method, Doernenburg Ratio Method, IEC Ratio Method, CIGRE Ratio Method and Duval Triangle Method were used during the research project. The problem arises when different methods used giving different results, make it difficult to do prediction and identifying the root cause of the defect. The results from different methods will be analysis and compared in order to get the best method in identifying the defective components in the transformer.

1.4 Project Scope

In this research, the project's scope was seeking damages in the transformer based on the results obtained using five (5) DGA interpretation method namely Rogers Ratio Method, Doernenburg Ratio Method, IEC Ratio Method, CIGRE Ratio Method and Duval Triangle Method. The research was done in the transmission system installation in electrical utility company in Malaysia namely Tenaga National Berhad (TNB). The levels of transformer voltage involved in this thesis were 132kV and 275kV. There are various types of transformers installed from different manufactures such as ABB, MTM, AEG, Shenbian, Fuji, Osaka, Shenyang, Hyundai, Xian, Bharat and Crompton Greaves.

1.5 Project Report Outline

Generally this project report is divided into five chapters, where it consists:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

Chapter 4: Results and Discussions

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendation

Chapter 1 is an overview of the research project, objective, problem statement and project scope. The research project that will be done are based on the objectives and scopes that been stated earlier.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review and theory background. In this chapter the principle of gas generation in transformer oil will be discussed. Various DGA interpretation techniques are explored for a better understanding.

Chapter 3 will focus on oil sampling procedures that one need to strictly follow in order to get a reliable dissolved gas analysis data. In addition, methodology and process flows of the overall condition monitoring process are explained.

Chapter 4 will presents the results and analysis done on the DGA data. First, power transformers condition assessment is determined based on the collection of the DGA test results. The trending will then be studied based on this. Comparative of study also is done on the various interpretation methods available. Finally, the finding and repair works taken will be presented.

Chapter 5 will summarized all the works that had been presented in previous chapters and all the results of the research project. This is followed by recommendations for future works.

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