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Original Research Article

Influences of biodiesel fuels produced from highly degraded waste animal fats on the injection and emission characteristics of a CRDI diesel engine



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ABSTRACT

In the current study, biodiesel fuels produced from waste chicken fat and waste fleshing oil with high free fatty acid were tested in a four stroke, four-cylinder, water-cooled, turbocharged-intercooled, common rail direct injection (CRDI) diesel engine. Their effects on the injection and exhaust emission characteristics of the test engine were determined and compared with those of petroleum-based diesel fuel (DF) as the reference fuel. Engine tests were performed at different engine loads and constant engine speed of 2000 rpm. Injection characteristics showed differences with respect to engine load and fuel type. However, the effects of biodiesel fuels on the injection profiles were more dominant for main injection characteristics such as the start of main injection, end of the main injection, injection amount and injection rate and these effects became more pronounced with increasing engine load. Compared to DF, animal fat based biodiesels had better total hydrocarbon (THC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, but their carbon dioxide (CO₂) and especially nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions were higher. In addition, waste fleshing oil-based biodiesel fuel emitted lower emissions than waste chicken fat-based biodiesel.

Keywords: Waste Animal Fat, Biodiesel, CRDI Diesel Engine, Injection, Exhaust Emission

1. Introduction

Biodiesel fuel, which is a critical and promising alternative fuel, can be produced from various feedstock such as vegetable oils, algae oil, waste frying oils, waste animal fats, soapstock etc. In addition to its advantageous including renewability, sustainability, domestically producibility, it has many technical superiorities and better exhaust emissions compared with

petroleum-based diesel fuel (DF) [1-4]. In spite of these positive properties, biodiesel usage amount could not be increased as the desired level because of its higher cost. Nowadays, the price of pure vegetable oils is much higher than that of DF. This high cost, which is the biggest economic obstacle against the commercialization of biodiesel, can be lowered by using waste feedstocks such as waste animal

fats. Moreover, the use of waste animal fats in biodiesel production prevents the harmful effects against the environment caused by the disposal of these waste materials.

Together with its effect on biodiesel production cost, the feedstock type is also so important in terms of the fuel properties of the produced biodiesel fuel. During the transesterification reaction, the fatty acid composition of the processed feedstock does not significantly change. Thus, the physico-chemical properties of the feedstock are directly decisive on the obtained biodiesel's fuel features. For example, a biodiesel fuel produced from animal fats having a higher level of saturated fatty acids will have higher viscosity, density, cetane number, heating value, better lubricity and oxidative stability but worse cold flow properties such as cold filter plugging point (CFPP) [5-7]. These are the very critical features for usage in diesel engines. Especially modern diesel engines are very susceptible to fuel properties. Because of this, the influences of animal fat based biodiesel fuels on the engine characteristics should be comprehensively investigated.

In the literature, there are a number of articles about the usage of biodiesel fuels obtained from animal fats in diesel engines (although not as many as high-quality vegetable oil-based biodiesels or waste frying oil-based biodiesels). Alptekin et al. [8] performed engine tests with waste animal fat-based biodiesels. In the engine tests, six-cylinder, four-stroke, turbocharged-intercooled, direct injection (DI) diesel engine equipped with mechanically controlled in-line type fuel injection system. Engine tests were carried out at a constant engine speed of 1400 rpm and four different engine loads of 150 Nm, 300 Nm, 450 Nm and 600 Nm. They have reported that the start of injection was relatively advanced with biodiesels as compared to DF. THC and CO emissions of biodiesel fuels were lower while their NO_x and CO₂ emissions were higher than those of DF.

Behcet et al. [9] investigated the effects of biodiesel fuels produced from waste fish oil and chicken fat on the exhaust emission characteristics of a single-cylinder, four-stroke, air-cooled, DI diesel engine. Engine tests were conducted at full load and engine speed was selected as 1000, 1500, 2000, and 2500 rpm. They have found that biodiesels caused to

decrement in the emissions of CO, HC and CO₂ but increased NO_x emissions compared to diesel fuel. Exhaust emission profiles of two animal fat-based biodiesel fuels were close to each other.

Shahir et al. [10] operated 2.6 liter, four-cylinder, four-stroke, water-cooled, turbocharged-intercooled, common rail direct injection (CRDI) diesel engine with animal fat-based biodiesel fuels. During engine tests, engine speed was kept constant at 2500 rpm and engine load was increased from 0% to 100%. They have observed that biodiesel fuels had higher NO_x, CO₂, and HC emissions but lower CO emissions in comparison to DF.

Despite the abundance of studies on waste animal fat origin biodiesel fuels, this should be strongly stressed that very big portion of these studies was carried out with the old technology diesel engines equipped with mechanically-controlled low-pressure fuel injection systems. But, today's commercially available modern diesel engines have electronically-controlled high-pressure fuel injection systems (common rail) and DI combustion chamber type, both of those are very sensitive the fuel quality. When the related literature is reviewed, the lack in the number of studies investigating the usage of highly degraded waste animal fat-based biodiesel fuels on CRDI diesel engines is easily seen.

In this experimental study, it was aimed to reduce this deficiency in the literature partially. For this purpose, biodiesel fuels, which were produced from waste chicken fat and waste fleshing oils having extremely high free fatty acids (FFA), were used in a four-cylinder, four-stroke, water-cooled, turbocharged-intercooled, CRDI diesel engine. The effects of waste animal fat-based biodiesel fuels on the injection and emission characteristics of the test engine were determined and compared with those of DF as the reference fuel. In addition, the change of performance and combustion characteristics with the test fuels were also determined [11], but these data were not given in this article.

2. Materials and Methods

Waste chicken fat (WCF) and waste fleshing oil (WFO) which were used as the feedstock in biodiesel production reactions were obtained from Beypiliç Chicken Slaughterhouse in Bolu

and the solid wastes recycle plant in Istanbul Leather Organized Industry, respectively. Both of waste animal fats were heated at 110 °C for one hour to remove moisture and then filtered to remove insoluble materials. Some critical physico-chemical properties of the animal fat feedstocks were given in Table 1. DF was purchased from a local gas station.

As seen in the Table, FFA contents of the feedstocks were too high. From the related literature, it is well known that FFAs consume homogeneous alkaline catalysts and cause foaming during transesterification reaction. Because of this, FFA content of any feedstock should be less than 1% (corresponding to a acid value of about 2 mg KOH.g⁻¹) for alkaline-catalyzed transesterification [12]. In order to

decrease the extremely high FFA levels of the feedstocks, the acid-catalyzed pretreatment reactions were carried out for both of them. Pretreatment reaction conditions of 10% H₂SO₄, 30:1 molar methanol ratio, 60 °C and 1 hour were the same for both feedstock. However, the 1-step pretreatment reaction was enough to decrease the FFA content of WFO to the desired value, but 2-step pretreatment reactions were needed for WCF due to its relatively higher acid value. After pretreatment reactions, alkaline-catalyzed transesterification reactions were performed to produce biodiesel fuels. Transesterification reaction conditions of 1% KOH, 60 °C and 1 hour were used for both animal fat, but molar methanol ratio was 6:1 for WCF and 7.5:1 for WFO.

Table 1. Some physico-chemical properties of WCF and WFO

	Unit	WCF	WFO
Viscosity (40 °C)	mm ² .s ⁻¹	53.8	51.3
Density (15 °C)	kg.m ⁻³	937.6	907.6
Acid Value	mg KOH.g ⁻¹	52.3	24.7
Heating Value	kJ.kg ⁻¹	38400	39600
Water Content	ppm	400	300
Peroxide Value	meq.kg ⁻¹	56.7	4.2
Iodine Value	g I ₂ . 100 g ⁻¹	85	52

Table 2. Fuel properties and chemical formulas of DF, CFB, and FOB

	Unit	DF	CFB	FOB
Chemical Formula	-	C ₁₂ H ₂₃	C _{18.6} H _{35.1} O ₂	C _{18.2} H _{34.9} O ₂
Viscosity (40 °C)	mm ² .s ⁻¹	2.96	5.30	4.70
Density (15 °C)	kg.m ⁻³	832.6	889.7	876.7
Acid Value	mg KOH.g ⁻¹	0.13	0.43	0.28
Net Heating Value	kJ.kg ⁻¹	43013	37045	37188
Flash Point	°C	57	169	168
Iodine Number	g I. 100 g ⁻¹	11.7	95.5	53.6
Cetane Number	-	59.9	52.3	58.8
CFPP	°C	-16	3	10
Water Content	ppm	49.6	340	310
Copper Strip Corrosion	Degree of corrosivity	No. 1	No. 1	No. 1
Monoglyceride	% (w/w)	-	0.02	0.06
Diglyceride	% (w/w)	-	0.05	0.02
Triglyceride	% (w/w)	-	0.06	0.20
Free Glycerol	% (w/w)	-	0.008	0.01
Total Glycerol	% (w/w)	-	0.03	0.05

Table 3. Technical specifications of the test engine

Engine	1.9 L, Fiat JTD
Type	Turbocharged, intercooled, four stroke, water cooled, common rail, direct injection
Number of Cylinder	4
Bore – Stroke	82 mm – 90.4 mm
Compression Ratio	18.45:1
Max. Power	77.5 kW (4000 rpm)
Max. Torque	205 Nm (1750 rpm)

Engine tests were performed in a four-stroke, four-cylinder, water-cooled, turbocharged-intercooled, CRDI diesel engine. Technical specifications of the test engine were given in Table 3. All the engine tests were carried out according to Turkish Standard 1231 (TS 1231-Test Code for Internal Combustion Engines). Engine tests were conducted at a fixed engine speed of 2000 rpm and five different engine loads of 50 Nm (10.47 kW), 75 Nm (15.70 kW), 100 Nm (20.93 kW), 125 Nm (26.17 kW), and 150 Nm (31.40 kW).

A hydraulic dynamometer was used to load the engine. The crankshaft position was determined by a crank angle encoder (AVL 365C) fixed over the engine crankshaft pulley. In order to measure the in-cylinder pressure, a glow-plug sensor (AVL GH13P) used for diesel applications was mounted on the cylinder and AVL FlexIFEM brand product was used for data

acquisition. A current clamp (Fluke) was used for getting the injection signals. Start and end of injection times were derived from the injector current. AVL IndiCom combustion analysis program was used to obtain and analyze cylinder gas pressure and injection timing data. The temperatures of the intake air, fuel, engine oil and engine coolant were measured by using K type thermocouples with a digital display. The fuel temperature was controlled by a heat exchanger and kept around $40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\pm 3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to avoid the physical properties change of test fuels caused by temperature increase. Intake air mass flow was measured by AVL Flowsonix-Air product. Fuel consumption was determined by weighing the fuel used for a period of time on an electronic scale. The exhaust emissions were determined by AVL SESAM FITR exhaust emission analyzer. A schematic layout of the engine setup was shown in Fig. 1.

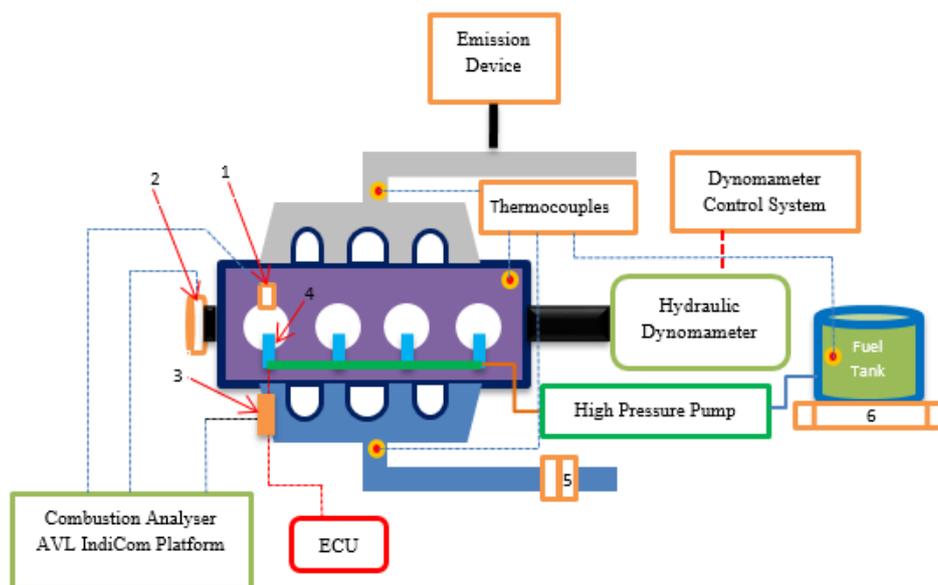


Fig. 1. Schematic view of the experimental setup: (1) AVL Glow-plug sensor, (2) AVL crank angle encoder, (3) Current probe, (4) Common Rail Injector, (5) Air mass flow meter, (6) Electronic scale

3. Results and Discussion

The effects of engine load and waste animal fat-based biodiesel fuels on the injection and exhaust emission characteristics of the test engine were determined and compared with those of DF as the reference fuel.

3.1. Injection characteristics

The common rail diesel engine used in the engine tests has split injection strategy (one pilot injection-before top dead center (b TDC) and one main injection-after top dead center (a

TDC)). The pilot and main injection timings were obtained by using the injector energizing timings. Injection durations were derived from the injector current (injector energizing duration). Injector opening and closing delays were ignored.

Start of pilot injection (SPI), end of pilot injection (EPI), pilot injection duration (PID), start of main injection (SMI), end of main injection (EMI), main injection duration (MID), injection amount (IA) and injection rate (IR) values were used as the parameters to monitor

the effects of diesel fuel and waste animal fat based-biodiesel fuels on the injection characteristics of the test engine. The changes in the pilot injection characteristics with engine

load were plotted in Fig. 2.

As seen in the graph, SPI and EPI timings of all the test fuels showed similar trends with respect to engine load. Up to 100 Nm, SPI was slightly

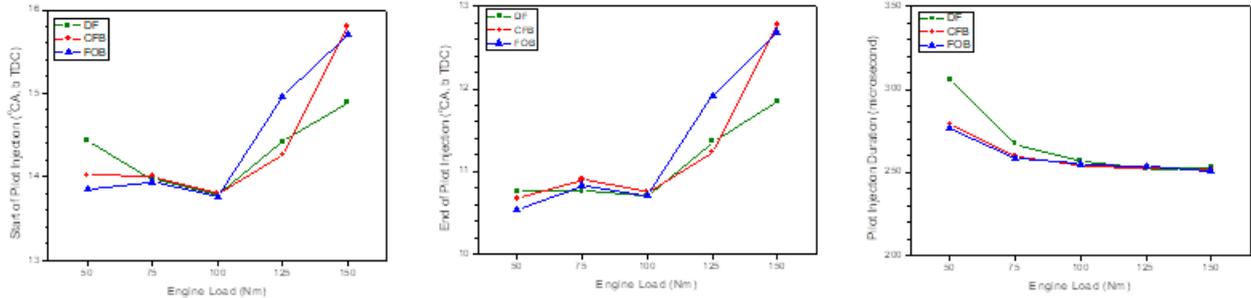


Fig. 2. Change of pilot injection characteristics with engine load

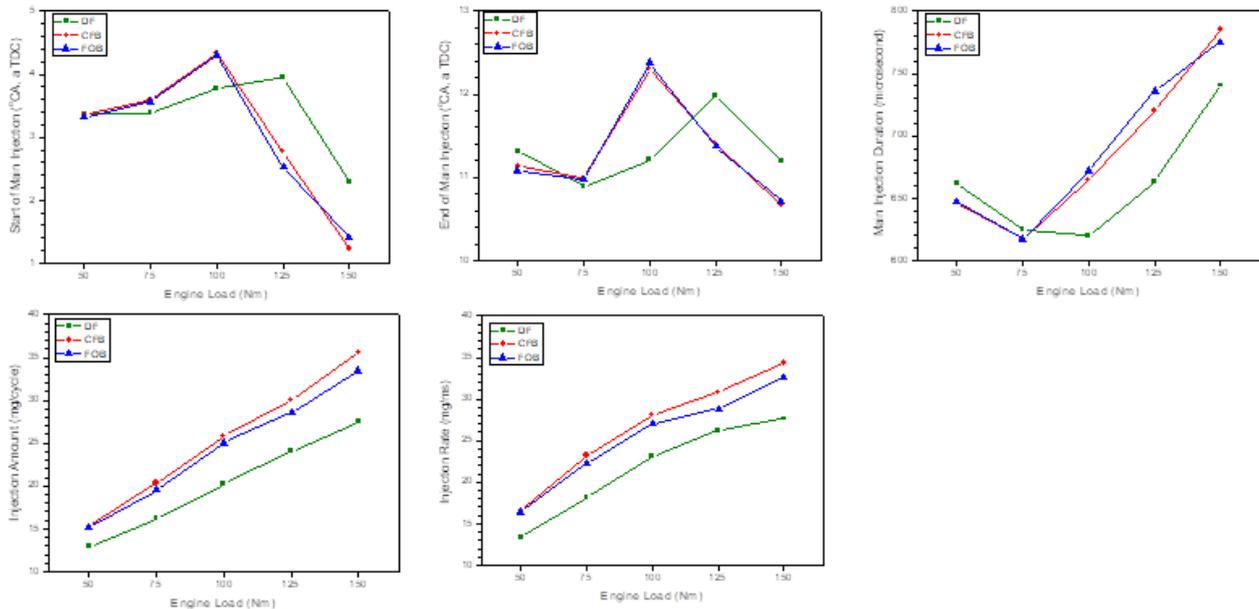


Fig. 3. Change of main injection characteristics with engine load

retarded and then advanced. EPI timings did not significantly change between 50 and 100 Nm, but they were advanced at higher loads for all fuels. When the engine load was increased from 100 Nm to 150 Nm, the advance determined in the SPI and EPI timings was 1.10 °CA and 1.15 °CA for DF, 2.08 °CA and 2.03 °CA for CFB, 1.94 °CA and 2.0 °CA for FOB, respectively.

The difference between the SPI and EPI timings of the test fuels were negligible at low loads (and even they were almost the same at 100 Nm), but, at the engine loads of 125 Nm and 150 Nm, the pilot injection of ester fuels started and ended at earlier crank angles compared to DF. The biggest differences were observed at 150 Nm for both CFB and FOB.

PID values of all test fuels decreased with engine load. However, this decrement was much more marked between 50 Nm and 100 Nm.

Although PIDs for DF were higher than those of biodiesels at 50 Nm and 75 Nm, the fuels had almost the same PID values at 125 Nm and 150 Nm.

The effects of test fuels and engine load on the main injection characteristics of the test engine were given in Fig. 3. Apart from 125 Nm, SMI and EMI timings of all test fuels showed similar trends with engine load. As seen in the related graphs, main injection timings of all test fuels were started and ended at earlier crank angles at high loads. However, this should be said that the change observed in the SMI and EMI was more pronounced for CFB and FOB.

There were not many differences between the SMI and EMI values of DF and ester fuels at 50 Nm and 75 Nm, but they started to differ from each other at increasing engine loads. For instance, at 75 Nm, SMI timing of the test fuels

was detected as 3.38° a TDC for DF, 3.59° a TDC for CFB and 3.56° a TDC for FOB. However, at 150 Nm, SMI timing was 2.3° a TDC for DF, 1.23° a TDC for CFB and 1.40° a TDC for FOB. In addition, this should be underlined that SPI and EPI timings of two biodiesel fuels were very close to each other at all loads tested.

Despite the decrement in MID values of test fuels between the engine loads of 50 Nm and 75 Nm, they started to increase as the engine load was increased. The increment observed in the MID values was higher for CFB and FOB compared to DF. When the engine load was increased from 50 Nm to 150 Nm, the rise in MID value was 11.81% for DF, 19.82% for FOB and 21.50% for CFB. At increasing engine loads, both CFB and FOB had higher MIDs compared to DF. This difference in MID may be due to the lower calorific values of biodiesel fuels as compared to that of DF. As the engine load is increased, the more fuel should be delivered into the engine. So, the electronic control unit (ECU) of the test engine should energize the injectors relatively longer during CFB and FOB usage.

IA values of all test fuels increased almost linearly with increasing engine load. At all operating conditions, IAs of CFB and FOB were higher than those of DF and this difference become clearer at higher loads. For example, the differences between the IA values of DF and biodiesels, which were 17.43% for FOB and 18.67% for CFB at 50 Nm, increased to 21.86% for FOB and 29.80% for CFB at 150 Nm. Because the heating contents of CFB and FOB were lower than that of DF, the more fuel should be injected to attain the same engine load and engine speed (as seen in IA values). Similarly, the little difference between the heating values of CFB and FOB (Table 2) showed itself. Namely, the IA value of CFB was higher than that of FOB at all engine loads tested and this difference became more pronounced with increasing engine load.

Similar to IA values, IRs of all test fuels inclined with engine load. Since the more energy (more fuel) is needed to raise the engine load, ECU of the test engine increased IR to respond the increment in the engine load for converting the fuel energy to the mechanical work more efficiently. Throughout all operating loads, IR

values of CFB and FOB were higher compared to DF. Because of their relatively lower heating contents, gas pedal should be pressed more during the usage of biodiesel fuels. Thus, ECU increased the fuel injection pressure and consequently injection rate to inject the higher amount of fuel. Alptekin [13], Indudhar et al. [14], Tziourtzioumis and Stamatelos [15] have also observed higher fuel injection pressures and injection rates when common rail engines were operated with fuels having less heating contents compared to DF. As will be discussed in the exhaust emission characteristics section of this paper, the IR value has a critical influence on combustion and consequently exhaust emissions, especially on NO_x emissions. Moreover, this should be strongly emphasized that the effect of this parameter drastically increases with increasing engine load [16].

3.2. Exhaust emission characteristics

3.2.1. CO emissions

The variation of CO emissions of test fuels with respect to engine load was illustrated in Fig. 4. As seen in the graph, the change of CO emissions of test fuels with increasing engine load was the same. Up to 125 Nm, CO emissions decreased but they increased at 150 Nm.

Test fuels' air-fuel ratios (the most critical parameter affecting CO emissions) were given in Table 4. As can be understood from the decreasing air-fuel ratios, the richer air-fuel mixtures were introduced into the engine with increasing engine load. Despite rich fuel mixtures, the decrement in CO emissions may be explained by increasing in-cylinder temperatures and pressures. In addition, as the engine load increase, volumetric efficiency and air turbulence improve, injection pressure increases and injection timing advances. The positive effects of these parameters on CO emission are well known in the literature [17-19]. The rise at 150 Nm may be caused by highly rich local zones inside the combustion chamber resulted from non-uniform fuel distribution and short combustion durations. For instance, DF's combustion duration of 21.42°CA at 50 Nm decreased to 19.47°CA at 150 Nm. These data can be seen in Ref. [11] in detail.

At all engine loads tested, biodiesel fuels emitted less CO emissions than DF. Compared to DF as the reference fuel, FOB had 8.27%,

24.11%, 11.83%, 12.07% and 13.70% reductions (on average 13.99%) at 50 Nm, 75 Nm, 100 Nm, 125 Nm and 150 Nm while CFB had 4.08%, 16.82%, 10.44%, 6.95% and 5.25% (on average 8.71%) reductions at corresponding engine loads. Despite their lower air-fuel ratios (meaning richer mixtures) and relatively shorter combustion durations, the lower CO emissions of animal fat-based biodiesels may be resulted from their molecular oxygen contents. Moreover, ECU of a diesel engine increases the fuel injection pressure and advances the start of injection (as can be seen in the related figures) as a result of the position of the gas pedal (when an engine is powered with lower heating content fuels, the gas pedal should be pressed more to obtain the same operating conditions). These parameters may cause to decrement in CO emission.

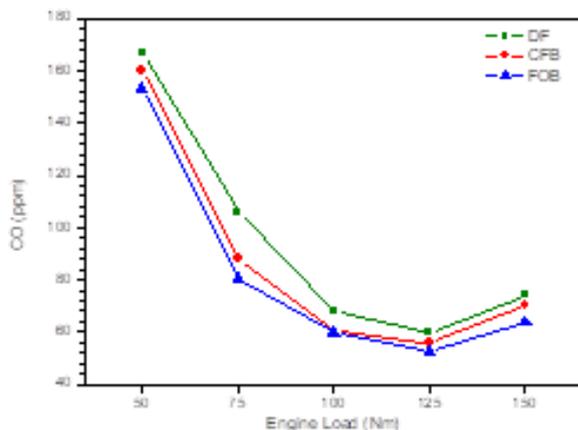


Fig. 4. Comparison of CO emissions

Table 4. Air-fuel ratios of the test fuels

	50 Nm	75 Nm	100 Nm	125 Nm	150 Nm
DF	37.54	30.67	26.51	23.11	19.97
FOB	33.72	27.66	22.71	20.89	18.80
CFB	33.37	26.51	22.05	19.87	17.65

When the biodiesels were compared to each other, it is seen that FOB had lower CO emissions than those of CFB throughout all engine loads tested. The less CO emissions of FOB may be emanated from its relatively lower viscosity and density values both of which improve the atomization quality and so result in effective air-fuel mixture formation and better combustion.

3.2.2. THC emissions

Similar to CO, HC emissions indicate insufficient and poor combustion. But, in

addition to the air-fuel ratio, the speed of chemical reactions affecting the regional combustion chamber temperatures and so leading to flame quenching is also critical for the formation of HC emissions [20]. If the hydrocarbons contain methane, they are defined as THC emissions. The change of THC emissions of test fuels with engine load was given in Fig. 5.

THC emissions of all test fuels decreased as the engine load was increased. However, this decrease was more obvious between 50 Nm and 75 Nm. The decrement in THC emissions between the lowest and the highest engine loads tested was 34.37% for DF (from 61.42 ppm to 21.11 ppm), 26.33% for CFB (from 52.62 ppm to 38.77 ppm) and 26.22% for FOB (from 50.45 ppm to 37.22 ppm). This declining trend seen in THC emissions with increasing engine load may be resulted from more effective air-fuel mixture formation thanks to higher fuel injection pressure (finer fuel droplets), better turbulence (strong air movement) and increased in-cylinder temperatures (speed evaporation process).

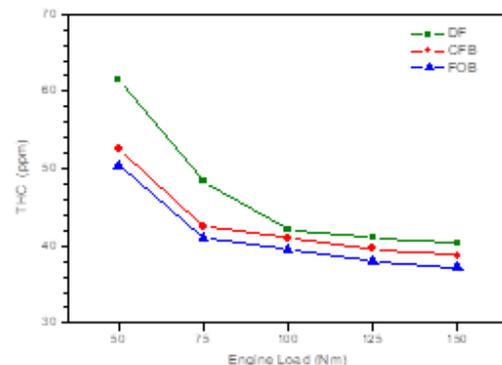


Fig. 5. Comparison of THC emissions

As seen in the figure, biodiesel fuels emitted less THC emissions than DF at all engine loads. The average decrease was 10.87% for FOB and 7.31% for CFB. This better THC emission may be caused by their oxygen availability. In addition, higher fuel injection pressure and increasing injection advance obtained with biodiesels should also be considered. Similar to CO emission results, FOB had less THC emissions compared to CFB. This situation might be resulted from FOB's relatively lower viscosity and density than those of CFB. The lower viscosity and density mean the better atomization and consequent finer fuel droplets form more homogeneous mixture inside the

combustion chamber, resulting in the more complete combustion and so the less THC emissions.

3.2.3. CO₂ emissions

The change of CO₂ emissions of test fuels was depicted in Fig. 6. As seen in the figure, CO₂ emissions of all test fuels increased in line with engine load. Higher in-cylinder temperatures, more fuel consumption, higher fuel injection pressure and better air turbulence attained at higher engine loads might result in higher CO₂ emissions. When the engine load was increased from 50 Nm to 150 Nm, the rise in CO₂ emissions was measured by 79% for DF (from 4.67% to 8.36%), 81.69% for FOB (from 4.86% to 8.83%) and 83.72% for CFB (from 4.79% to 8.80%).

In comparison to DF as the reference fuel, biodiesel fuels caused to increase in CO₂ emissions throughout all operating conditions. The reason for the worse CO₂ emissions of biodiesels may be their higher carbon contents compared to DF (Table 2). In addition, ester fuels' higher fuel consumptions, which were caused by their lower heating values, may also be an influential parameter on their relatively higher CO₂ emissions. Also, the oxygen contents of CFB and FOB can improve the combustion efficiency leading to higher CO₂ concentration. In comparison to DF, the average increase in CO₂ emissions was 5.93% for FOB and 4.71% for CFB. When the biodiesel fuels were compared to each other, it is seen that their CO₂ emissions were very close to each other at all engine loads tested.

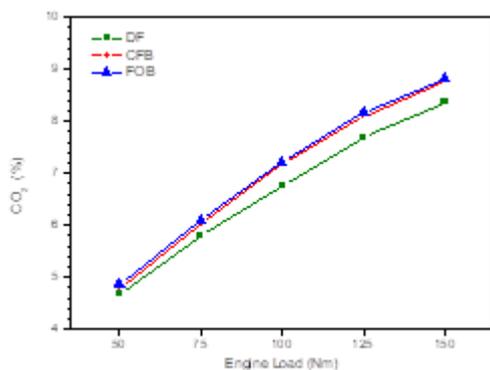


Fig. 6. Comparison of CO₂ emissions

3.2.4. NO_x emissions

Since the high NO_x emissions are a very big problem especially for diesel engines, they should be investigated in detail. Thermal NO_x

formation is very sensitive to combustion temperature. In addition, combustion duration and local oxygen concentration are also critical parameters on NO_x emissions [21]. Examining the NO_x occurring mechanism may be useful in order to understand this emission type and make a correct analysis. According to the Zeldovich mechanism, when the flame temperature of 1800 K is reached, the air inside the combustion chamber starts to ionize and the following chain reactions occur:



In the first reaction, which governs the overall reaction, O radical attacks N₂ to form NO and N radical. In the second reaction, which is much faster than the first reaction, O₂ is attacked by N radical to form NO and O radical. When the oxygen concentration is insufficient in the combustion media, the second reaction slows down and the third reaction is included [22].

The variations of NO_x emissions of test fuels were illustrated in Fig 7. As seen, NO_x concentrations of all test fuels increased almost linearly with engine load. When the engine load was increased from 50 Nm to 150 Nm, the rise in NO_x concentration was 251.87% (from 303.54 ppm to 1068.08 ppm) for DF, 299.56% (from 320.47 ppm to 1280.61 ppm) for FOB, and 314.76% (from 307.21 ppm to 1274.19 ppm) for CFB. The most important parameters on this drastic NO_x rise are the increasing in-cylinder temperatures and pressures attained at high engine loads. Moreover, higher air mass flow into the engine, better turbulence, advanced start of injection and increased fuel injection pressure are also critical factors rising NO_x emissions [23, 24].

Although NO_x emissions of all test fuels were very close to each other at 50 Nm, biodiesel fuels released higher NO_x at higher loads and this gap became more apparent with increasing engine load. For instance, the difference between the NO_x concentrations of DF and CFB was 5.58% at 50 Nm and increased to 19.90% at 150 Nm. This difference for FOB was 1.21% at 50 Nm and 19.30% at 150 Nm. When the injection characteristics are analyzed it is seen that SMI and EMI timings were very similar at

50 Nm but SMI was advanced for biodiesel fuels and their MID values (injection pulse width) were higher than those of DF at higher engine loads. Similar to injection timing, injection amount and injection rate values are also vital parameters on NO_x emissions. Because the heating contents of CFB and FOB are lower than that of DF, ECU must energize the injectors slightly longer to obtain the same engine test conditions. As seen in MID graph, this difference increased with engine load. So, some of the fuel was injected during the heat release and this overlap between the heat release and fuel injection increased as the engine load was increased. This situation may increase NO_x emissions of biodiesel fuels significantly. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, ECU increases the fuel injection pressure to respond the position of gas pedal. As can be understood from the IA and IR graphs, the difference in the injection pressures of DF and ester fuels increased with increasing engine load. The augmenting effect of fuel injection pressure on NO_x emissions is well known in the literature [25].

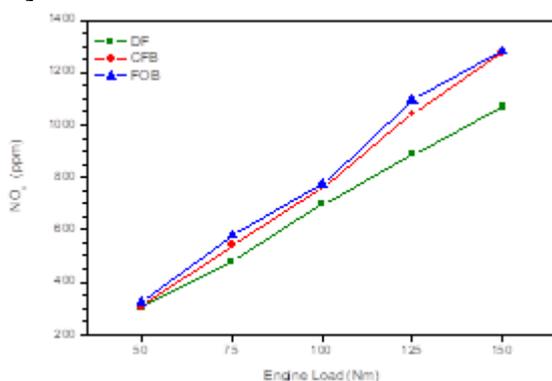


Fig. 7. Comparison of NO_x emissions

In addition to injection characteristics, the physico-chemical properties of the test fuels should also be considered to interpret their NO_x emissions. As given in Table 2, the cetane number of DF was higher than those of CFB and FOB. In the literature it is well known that fuels with high cetane number emit relatively less NO_x emissions [26]. Furthermore, low viscosity, density and iodine value of DF may be influential parameters on its low NO_x emissions [27, 28]. Also, molecular oxygen contents of biodiesel fuels might cause to NO_x rise by improving the combustion phenomenon. When CFB and FOB are compared to each other it is realized that NO_x emissions of FOB were

higher than those of CFB throughout all operating conditions. Because the injection characteristics were very similar for both biodiesel fuels, this little difference in their NO_x emissions cannot be explained with this parameter. So, their fuel features should be examined. Despite the better cetane number of FOB, its comparatively higher NO_x emissions may be caused by lower viscosity and density values which improve the spray formation and result in better combustion and consequently higher in-cylinder temperatures. Moreover, the relatively higher calorific value of FOB compared to that of CFB (Table 2) may also be influential on its higher NO_x emissions.

4. Conclusions

In this experimental study, the effects of biodiesel fuels, which were produced from highly degraded waste chicken fat and waste fleshing oil, on the injection and exhaust emission characteristics of a CRDI diesel engine were determined and compared with those of petroleum-based diesel fuel as the reference fuel.

The start and the end of the pilot and main injection timings were advanced with increasing engine load for all test fuels. But, this advance was more marked with biodiesel fuels. In comparison to DF, both FOB and CFB were injected at earlier crank angles. The effects of biodiesel fuels on the start and the end main injection were higher compared to pilot injection characteristics and this difference increased as the engine load was increased. Main injection duration, injection amount and injection rate of FOB and CFB were higher than those of DF at all operating loads.

These variations in the injection characteristics strongly affected the combustion phenomenon and inevitably exhaust emission characteristics. Biodiesel fuels emitted less CO (the average decrease was 13.99% for FOB and 8.71% for CFB) and THC emissions (the average decrease was 10.87% for FOB and 7.31% for CFB) but higher CO_2 (the average increase was 5.93% for FOB and 4.71% for CFB) and NO_x emissions (the average increase was 16.37% for FOB and 12.11% for CFB).

This significant issue must strongly be pointed out that the injection calibration map of the test engine was not adjusted for biodiesel fuels.

Namely, CFB and FOB which had different physico-chemical fuel properties were injected via the same strategy calibrated for DF. The ECU of the test engine responded to the position of the gas pedal and advanced the injection timings and increased the fuel injection pressure.

In order to operate a modern CRDI diesel engine more efficiently by using biodiesel fuels, the injection map of ECU should be calibrated according to their fuel properties. For example, injection timings may be retarded and injection pressures may be reduced with biodiesels compared to DF at the same engine operating conditions. With these applications, their higher CO₂ and NO_x emissions may be decreased. The probable deteriorations in the CO and THC emissions caused by lower injection pressure and retarded injection timings may be alleviated by the molecular oxygen contents of biodiesel fuels. In addition, biodiesel fuels can be blended with alcohol fuels at certain ratios for increasing the oxygen concentration, decreasing relatively higher viscosity and density, and improving their cold-flow properties. With these applications performed in ECU software and fuel properties, waste animal fat-based biodiesel fuels can successfully be used even in new technology CRDI diesel engines, which are very sensitive to fuel quality, with competitive performance, combustion and emission characteristics.

5. References

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