CLAIMS

1. A method of producing polyphenylene ether, the method comprising:

the polymerization step of oxidatively polymerizing a phenolic compound in a polymerization solution containing a good solvent for polyphenylene ether and a catalyst to obtain a polyphenylene ether mixture liquid;

the condensation step of regulating a concentration of polyphenylene ether contained in the polyphenylene ether mixture liquid to more than 30 % by mass and not more than 50 % by mass; and

the precipitation step of adding, into a precipitation tank equipped with a stirrer, the polyphenylene ether mixture liquid, a poor solvent for polyphenylene ether, and water to be mixed and precipitating polyphenylene ether to thereby obtain a slurry liquid containing a polyphenylene ether particulate substance, wherein

in the precipitation step, the poor solvent for polyphenylene ether and the water are added into the precipitation tank through different supply ports, and

in the precipitation step, the amount of the water added is from 0.05 to 30 % by mass with respect to 100 % by mass of the poor solvent for polyphenylene ether.

2. The method of producing polyphenylene ether according to claim 1, wherein, in the precipitation step, the ratio by mass of the poor solvent for polyphenylene ether added to the good solvent for polyphenylene ether contained in the polyphenylene ether mixture liquid added, that is to say, the mass of the poor solvent for polyphenylene ether added / the mass of the good solvent for polyphenylene ether contained in the polyphenylene ether mixture liquid added, is from 0.3 to 2.0.

3. The method of producing polyphenylene ether according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the phenolic compound comprises 2,6-dimethylphenol.

4. The method of producing polyphenylene ether according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a content rate of polyphenylene ether particles having a particle size of not more than 105 μm in the polyphenylene ether particulate substance is not more than 11 % by mass.