

ABSTRACT

In a process for production of a polyether by subjecting a raw material compound to a polymerization reaction or condensation reaction in the presence of a solid acid catalyst, the amount of catalyst required is reduced and a polyether having a narrow molecular weight distribution is produced at a high degree of conversion stably for the long term by using a catalyst, the performance of the catalyst being prevented from deteriorating over time. A solid acid catalyst having surface hydroxyl groups is allowed to contact with an organic compound and/or an inorganic compound, which can react or interact with the surface hydroxyl groups and which is other than the polyether, and is used for the polymerization reaction or the condensation reaction. Since hydrophobic groups derived from the organic compound and/or the inorganic compound are bonded to the surface hydroxyl groups, the hydrophobicity of the catalyst surface is improved, an influence of water which may adversely affect the catalyst is reduced, and the performance of the catalyst is prevented from deteriorating over time. Since the reactive surface hydroxyl groups have been already bonded to the hydrophobic groups, the polyether, which is a reaction product, is prevented from bonding to or interacting with the surface hydroxyl groups, and the performance of the

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catalyst is prevented from deteriorating over time.