

METHOD FOR PRODUCING POLYPHENYLENE ETHER

Abstract

A method for producing a polyphenylene ether is provided, the method enabling the polymerization time to be reduced while suppressing foaming in the early stage of the oxidative polymerization. The method for producing a polyphenylene ether according to the present invention includes a polymerization step of oxidatively polymerizing a phenolic compound (M) by allowing an oxygen-containing gas (O) to flow through a polymerization solution including the phenolic compound (M), an aromatic solvent (A), and a catalyst (C) in a reactor. The polymerization step includes a first polymerization step of performing polymerization by controlling an absolute pressure of a gas phase in the reactor to a first pressure of more than 0.098 MPa and 0.392 MPa or less, and a second polymerization step of performing polymerization by controlling the absolute pressure to a second pressure lower than the first pressure and of 0.098 MPa or more and less than 0.392 MPa after the first polymerization step.