Abstract

A process for preparing silicon comprising the following steps

a) fused salt electrolysis of an SiO_2-containing starting material together with antimony, mercury and sulfur to obtain a decomposed material;

b) washing to remove elemental sulfur;

c) acid treatment to eliminate foreign ions;

d) reduction treatment to reduce mercury and/or antimony salts;

e) density separation to separate the silicon from the residual components.