

ABSTRACT

A process for producing a water-soluble polymer dispersion comprising polymerizing water-soluble monomers having double bonds in an aqueous salt solution that dissolves the monomers but does not dissolve the formed polymer while stirring in the presence of a dispersant composed of a polymer electrolyte soluble in this aqueous salt solution to obtain fine polymer particles dispersed in the aqueous salt solution, characterized by adding at least one viscosity-increase suppressor selected from the group consisting of: (A) a polyvalent carboxylic acid or a salt thereof, (B) a polyvalent phenol, (C) a cyclic compound containing a hydroxyl group and a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, (D) gluconic acid or a salt thereof, (E) a reaction product obtained by reacting methoxyhydroquinone and/or (meth)acrylic cationic monomer with a compound that generates radicals in an oxidizing atmosphere, (F) a reaction product obtained by reacting (meth)acrylic cationic polymer with a compound that generates radicals in an oxidizing atmosphere, (G) a reaction product obtained by reacting (meth)acrylic cationic polymer with an oxidant, and a mixture thereof.