



Experimental Investigation of Generated Surface Roughness in Hard Turning of Ti6Al4V Using Coated Ceramic and CBN Inserts

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ABSTRACT

Surface finish of machined parts is a significant quality mark for a range of applications such as aerospace, automotive, power transmission and generation. Therefore, optimization of surface roughness is the key factor for reliability in machining difficult-to-cut materials such as titanium-based alloys. In this study, an investigation into hard turning of Ti6Al4V alloys with varying process parameters and cutting tool materials was carried out. This study aims to compare the generated surface roughness when turning Ti6Al4V alloys using CBN and coated ceramic inserts, independently, under the same values of feed rate, cutting speed and depth of cut. The experiments were designed using Taguchi L9 and the exponential results were examined by the analysis of variance (ANOVA). The effect of process parameters and their interactions on generated surface roughness was evaluated for the two inserts. It was found improvement of surface roughness by 34% was achieved when using coated ceramic insert compared with the results obtained using CBN insert under the same range cutting conditions. CBN insert gave a better result at smallest depth of cut (0.15 mm), low feed rate (0.1 mm/rev) and high cutting speed (100 m/min) while coated ceramic tool gave a minimum surface roughness at depth of cut (0.2 mm), feed rate (0.1 mm/rev) and high cutting speed (100 m/min).

Keywords: Ti6Al4V, turning, coated ceramic insert, CBN insert, surface roughness

1. INTRODUCTION

Today, with the advances in aerospace industry, more advanced materials such as superalloys and composite materials are widely used in aviation engine [1]. Titanium-based alloys are a group of high-performance materials which have superior properties to fulfill special requirements [2] such as light weight with very high strength-to-weight ratios, reliability in hot environments [3-4].

As the high quality of components surface is the main objective in aerospace industry, surface integrity is an important factor to study for high reliability levels [5-6]. Surface roughness is an important parameter for measuring surface integrity as it has a direct relationship with the service life of parts [7-8]. Therefore, many studies have been conducted on investigating surface roughness and its correlation with machining conditions when turning Ti6Al4V [9-10].

Many researchers studied the effect of machining conditions entailing direct influences such as process parameters and tool properties [6, 11] and indirect conditions affected surface roughness during machining such as cutting force, generated temperature and tool wear by machining [12, 13]. Nithyanandam et al. [14], studied the effect of process parameters on generated surface roughness by turning tests of Ti6Al4V alloys. The results showed that smoother surface was obtained by low feed rate and high cutting speed with a slight impact of depth of cut on surface roughness. Other researchers used modeling and optimization techniques to optimize surface roughness when turning titanium-based alloys. VenkataRamana et al. [15], followed Taguchi design of experiment and analysis of variance (ANOVA) to optimize machining parameters influencing surface roughness. It was found that feed rate was the most significant parameter that affected surface roughness and the interactions between process parameters had also a high effect. Rajaparthiban et al. [16], used artificial neural network (ANN) to surface roughness modelling by varying process parameters the results showed a higher relationship between measured surface roughness and predicted metal removal rate (MRR) using different process parameters. Regards to the effect of tool geometries on measured surface roughness Kumar et al. [7] reported that nose radius has a significant effect on surface roughness. Jagadesh et al. [17] stated that the surface roughness

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increases at values of feed rates and depths of cut lower than cutting edge radius of tool. Khan et al. [18] investigated turning of titanium-based alloys with a novel chamfered insert, the results showed that chamfered insert recorded good results on measured surface roughness.

Cutting tool materials have an important impact on cutting performance especially when machining difficult-to-cut materials [19]. Selecting a tool of target material with varying cutting conditions can influence tool life, surface finishing of parts and power consumption during machining [20]. Some studies compared the effect of cutting inserts on machining performance as well as obtained surface roughness when turning titanium-based alloys. Ren et al. [21], conducted experimental work on turning of titanium alloy using two different materials of cutting insert namely; PCD and PCBN. It was found that PCD tools showed better performance on tool wear and tool life more than PCBN tool. Niknam et al. [22], studied the performance of two different insert types namely; carbide and CBN insert. The results showed that at high cutting speed, better performance was found by CBN insert in term of surface roughness. Qin et al. [23] studied the coating conditions of insert by using three different insert types; uncoated, PVD and CVD coated carbide insert. It was found that CVD coated insert showed a better surface roughness.

Other studies used different techniques to improve surface roughness such as using ultrasonic assisted turning [24] and cooling system [25]. Liu et al. [26], studied turning of Ti6Al4V alloys using cool air gun cooling system which showed improvement on surface roughness. Ali et al. [27], studied turning of Ti6Al4V using minimal nano-lubrication. The results showed that minimum values of surface roughness were obtained by more sustainable use of nano-lubricants in turning Ti6Al4V. Ramana et al. [28] reported that minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) showed better results of surface roughness more than dry and flood machining. The same results were found by Rahman et al. [29]. Revuru et al. [30] used MQL with different cutting fluid conditions on turning of Ti6Al4V. The results showed a slight influence on surface roughness by MQL technique. While different results were found in other studies of the effect of cooling system on obtained surface roughness, Rubio et al. [31], studied turning of Ti6Al4V alloys with three different cooling conditions namely; dry, cold air and MQL cooling systems and reported that no noticeable effect was found by cooling conditions on surface roughness. Also, An et al. [32] stated that a slight lower effect on surface roughness was found by turning with flood cooling. Besides, using cooling systems in machining is not preferred by researchers and became turning to dry machining for serving the environment and saving power and costs.

From literature review, tool wear, generated temperature and cutting force when turning Ti 6Al 4V using various tool materials were studied and a few researches aimed to study obtained surface roughness by different cutting tool materials. Therefore, this paper aimed to optimize the surface roughness of machining titanium based alloy using CBN and coated ceramic inserts. Surface roughness was

measured in two cases with different cutting parameters on dry condition.

The present of the paper is organized as follows; section 2 shows experimental set up and procedure. Section 3 presents the experimental results and analysis to optimize surface roughness by both inserts. in Section 4, The specific conclusions are drowned.

2. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

Ti6Al4V alloy was used as a target material for turning tests. Solid rods of material with 25 mm outer diameter are used and the cutting length for each trail was 30 mm. Vickers test was carried out to measure hardness; the average *hardness value* was (367 V₃₀). Chemical composition of material was examined, see Table 1. The physical properties of Ti6Al4V are given in Table 2.

Table 1. Chemical composition of Ti6Al4V material

Element	Ti	Al	V	Cu
%	89.4	5.74	4.4	0.0685
Element	Fe	Sn	Si	W
%	0.162	0.014	0.0119	0.165

Table 2. The physical properties of Ti6Al4V [33]

Ti6AL4V	
Density (g/cm ³)	4.43
Tensile elastic modulus (GPa)	110
Tensile strength (MPa)	931
Yield strength (MPa)	862
Elongation (%)	14
Thermal conductivity at 20 °C (W/m K)	7.3
Specific heat 20–100 °C (J/Kg K)	709

Two types of inserts by Taegu Tec were used for experiments with different materials and same geometry, see Fig. 1. The first insert was ceramic insert is ceramic insert with AL₂O₃+TiCN coated layer. The second insert was CBN (KB90) insert. Both inserts have 55° cutting edge angle, 0° rake angle and 0.8 mm nose radius. Tool holder (PDJNR 2020 K15) by Taegu Tec was used.

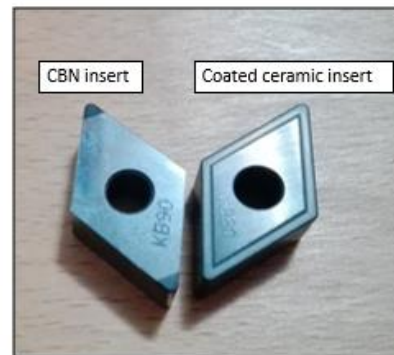


Figure 1: The two different inserts used in experiments

Turning operations were conducted on a CNC lathe with 6000 maximum rotational speed of spindle and 5.5 KW spindle motor. Figure 2 shows CNC lathe used for experiments.

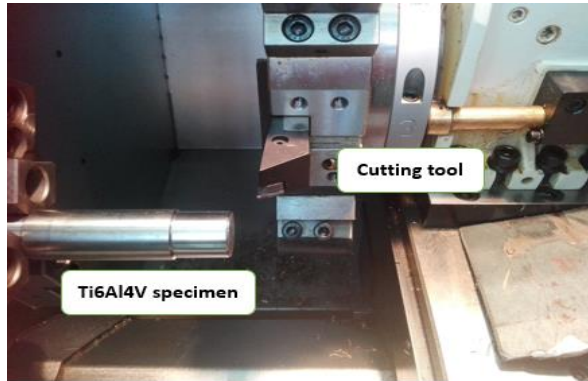


Figure 2: Experimental test rig

Design of experiments based on Taguchi method design (L_9) on measuring surface roughness. The process parameters were feed rate, cutting speed and depth of cut. Table 3 present Taguchi method design (L_9) for the three factors and with three levels. All experiments were carried out under dry conditions.

Table 3. Taguchi method design (L_9) for variable process parameters

Run	F (mm/rev)	V (m/min)	d (mm)
1	0.1	50	0.15
2	0.1	75	0.2
3	0.1	100	0.25
4	0.15	50	0.2
5	0.15	75	0.25
6	0.15	100	0.15
7	0.2	50	0.25
8	0.2	75	0.15
9	0.2	100	0.2

The results of surface roughness (R_a) were measured by Surtronic (3 stylus) profilometer as shown in Fig. 3 with cut length of 0.8 mm. The measured roughness is an average of ten readings taken over the machined length.



Figure 3: Surtronic (3 stylus) profilometer

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All results of measured surface roughness were collected and analyzed by MINITAB software to calculate results of Taguchi analysis, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and graphical analysis. From Taguchi analysis. Figure 4 shows all results of measured surface roughness for all trails using CBN and coated ceramic inserts in addition to calculated metal removal rate (MRR). Comparison between two inserts with respect MRR is important for measuring surface roughness corresponding productivity. The graph indicates that coated ceramic insert gave better results of surface roughness more than the results obtained by CBN one for all trails. Also, the results showed improvement in surface roughness by 34% when using coated ceramic insert than using CBN insert at the same cutting conditions.

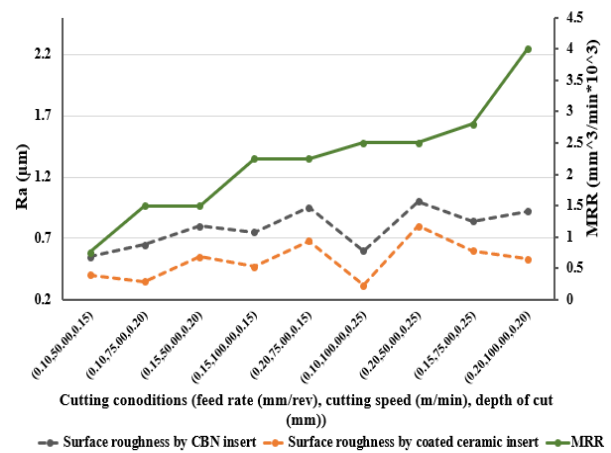


Figure 4: Material removal rate (MRR) and measured surface roughness of Ti6Al4V specimens machined by coated ceramic and CBN inserts

It was observed that the minimum surface roughness ($R_a = 0.315 \mu\text{m}$) was obtained by coated ceramic tool at feed rate of 0.1 mm/rev, cutting speed of 100 m/min and depth of cut of 0.25 mm) with high MRR ($2.5 \times 10^3 \text{mm}^3/\text{min}$). While minimum obtainable surface roughness by CBN insert ($R_a = 0.55 \mu\text{m}$) at 0.1 m/rev feed rate, 50 m/min cutting speed and 0.15 mm depth of cut led to low MRR of $0.75 \times 10^3 \text{mm}^3/\text{min}$. Besides, maximum MRR ($0.4 \times 10^3 \text{mm}^3/\text{min}$) was obtained with an acceptable measured surface roughness R_a of $0.6 \mu\text{m}$ and $0.84 \mu\text{m}$ by coated ceramic and CBN inserts, respectively.

3.1. Main Effects of Process Parameters

Fig. 5. presents the main effect of individual process parameter namely; feed rate, cutting speed and depth of cut on measured surface roughness when using coated ceramic insert. It was obviously found that surface roughness increased with increasing feed rate that agrees with previous studies [14-15] which reported that feed rate has the most significant effect on surface roughness, as the larger feed rate leads to rougher surface. Cutting speed and depth of cut

showed a lower impact on surface roughness compared with feed rate. It was found that surface roughness improved with increasing cutting speed. Some studies explained this improvement by the softening of target material which occurred due to the increase of the cutting temperature with higher cutting speed. This can reduce cutting force and fluctuant by force result in smoother surface [34-35]. Owing to the effect of depth of cut on measured surface roughness, a slight decrease of it was found by increasing cut depth from 0.15 to 0.2 mm, Then the surface roughness increases with increasing cut depth from 0.2 to 0.25 mm. the increase in surface roughness at lowest value of depth of cut is due to the ploughing and rubbing actions which occurs at low depth of cut and large nose radius. Although a large nose radius has effective impact on improving surface roughness, it has a negative effect on machining performance when machining at lower depth of cut. Also, a higher cut depth led to a rougher surface. That is may due to higher chatter and vibration produced during process by higher depth of cut which lead to higher surface roughness [36].

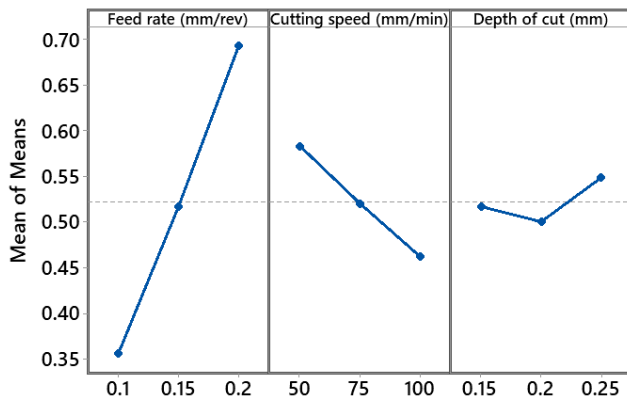


Figure 5: Effect of process parameters on surface Roughness using coated ceramic insert

Similarly, Fig. 6. presents the effect of individual parameters on Ra using CBN insert. It was found the same trend of the effect of feed rate on surface roughness that found by coated ceramic insert in the case of CBN insert. The feed rate has a linear relationship with surface roughness. Regarding the effect of cutting speed on surface roughness (shown in Fig.5), a different trend was observed in Fig.6. It was found that the surface roughness increased with increasing cutting speed from 50 to 75 mm/min. Then it decreased at higher cutting speeds. At low cutting speed the surface roughness increased with increasing cutting speed. This is due to high chatter and vibrations at higher cutting speed [36]. However, at higher cutting speeds the surface roughness decreased, due to thermal softening [34]. Owing to the effect of depth of cut, the surface roughness is higher using CBN insert than in using coated ceramic one. It was observed that Ra increased when the depth of cut changed from 0.15 to 0.2 mm followed by a higher increase to reach the highest depth of cut.

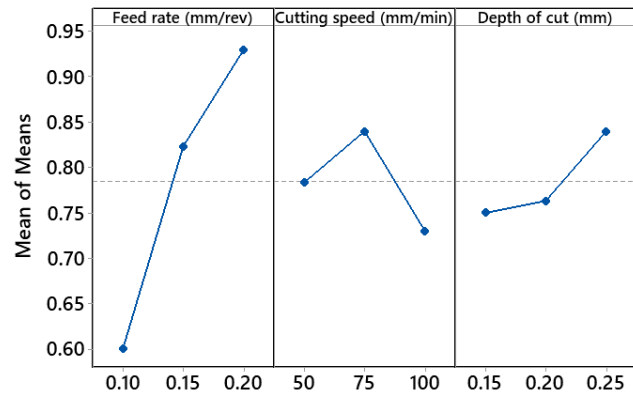


Figure 6: Effect of process parameters on surface Roughness using CBN insert

From the results of surface roughness which found by two cutting inserts, in case of coated ceramic insert, minimum surface roughness was found at highest cutting speed 100 mm/min, low feed rate 0.1 mm/rev and moderate value of depth of cut 0.2 mm. On the other hand, minimum surface roughness was achieved in case of CBN insert, at highest cutting speed 100 m/min and low feed rate 0.1 mm/rev and depth of cut 0.15 mm. Regarding ANOVA analysis, Table 4 and Table 5 show the most significant parameters affecting surface roughness for two types of inserts. The feed rate has the highest impact on surface roughness with p-value of 0.009 using coated ceramic insert, and p-value of 0.008 using CBN insert. The cutting speed is the second significant parameter affecting surface roughness with p-value of 0.065 and 0.069 using ceramic and CBN inserts, respectively. The depth of cut has the lowest effect with p-value of 0.087 for CBN insert, and an insignificant effect in the case of coated ceramic insert with p-value 0.3

Table 6: Analysis of variance results by coated ceramic insert

Parameter	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Feed rate (mm/rev)	2	0.171817	0.085908	110.85	0.009
Cutting speed (mm/min)	2	0.022217	0.011108	14.33	0.065
Depth of cut (mm)	2	0.003617	0.001808	2.33	0.300
Error	2	0.001550	0.000775		
Total	8	0.199200			

Table 6: Analysis of variance results by CBN insert

Parameter	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Feed rate (mm/rev)	2	0.170156	0.085078	125.52	0.008
Cutting speed (mm/min)	2	0.018156	0.009078	13.39	0.069

Depth of cut (mm)	2	0.014156	0.007078	10.44	0.087
Error	2	0.001356	0.000678		
Total	8	0.203822			

3.2. Interactions of Process Parameters

In this section, the effect of interactions of process parameters is discussed. The main effect of individual process parameter can give different trends by changing the other parameters.

Fig.7 presents the effect of interaction of feed rate and depth of cut on surface roughness using ceramic insert. Higher variation of surface roughness with feed rate occurred at 0.25 mm depth of cut. Maximum surface roughness was observed at highest values of feed rate (0.2 mm/rev) and depth of cut (0.25 mm). Minimum value was at a high depth of cut (0.25 mm) and low feed rate (0.1 mm/rev). At low feed rate, smallest depth of cut resulted in rougher surface than that obtained by other cut depths.

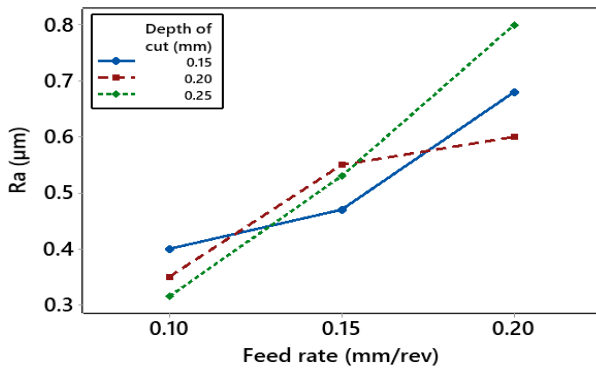


Figure 7: Effect of interaction of feed rate and depth of cut on surface roughness when using coated ceramic insert

Regards to the case of CBN insert, Fig. 8 shows the effect of interaction of feed rate and depth of cut on measured surface roughness. Smoother surface was found by lowest depth of cut (0.15 mm) than other cut depths at feed rates; 0.1 and 0.15 mm/rev while maximum surface roughness at highest feed rate (0.2 mm/rev) was achieved by depth of cut of 0.25 mm.

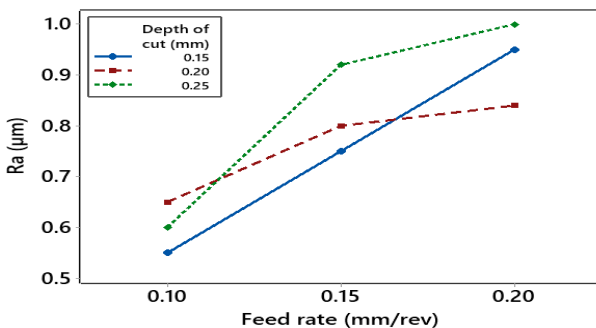


Figure 8: Effect of interaction of feed rate and depth of cut on surface roughness when using CBN insert

Fig. 9 illustrates the effect of interaction of depth of cut and cutting speed on surface roughness, when using coated ceramic. Different trends of the effect of depth of cut on surface roughness with different cutting speeds were observed. At lower cutting speed, a proportional relationship between depth of cut and surface roughness was noticed. This may be due to a higher force and vibration at higher depth of cut [37]. On the other hand, at higher cutting speed this may not take place due to material softening because of high heat generation [34, 38]. Highest surface roughness was found at 0.25 mm depth of cut and 50 mm/min cutting speed. Combination of higher values of cutting speed and depth of cut resulted in rougher surface. Better results were found at high cutting speed and depth of cut. Minimum surface roughness results using higher cutting speed and 0.25 mm depth of cut.

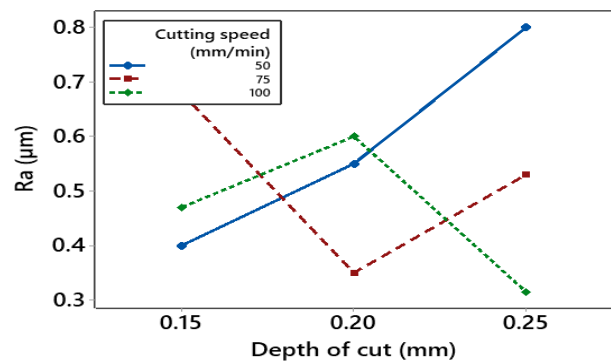


Figure 9: Effect of interaction of cutting speed and depth of cut on surface roughness when using coated ceramic insert

At the case of using CBN insert, Fig. 10 shows the effect of interaction of cutting speed and depth of cut on measured surface roughness. Same trends of interaction between these two process parameters that obtained by coated ceramic insert were found when using CBN insert. The minimum surface roughness that found in this case was occurred by combination of low cutting speed (50 m/min) and low depth of cut (0.15 mm). Otherwise the maximum surface roughness occurred at low cutting speed (50 m/min) and high depth of cut (0.25 mm).

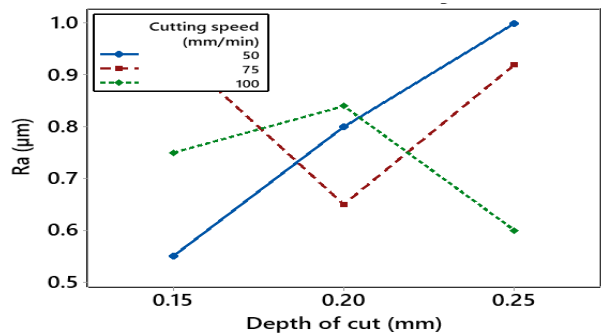


Figure 10: Effect of interaction of cutting speed and depth of cut on surface roughness when using CBN insert

Fig. 11 shows the effect of interaction of cutting speed and feed rate on surface roughness by using coated ceramic. It was found that surface roughness decreased by increasing cutting speed for all values of feed rates. A noticeable variation in surface roughness at different cutting speed was found at depth of cut (0.25 mm), while a fewer varying values of surface roughness was found when depth of cut of 0.15 mm was applied.

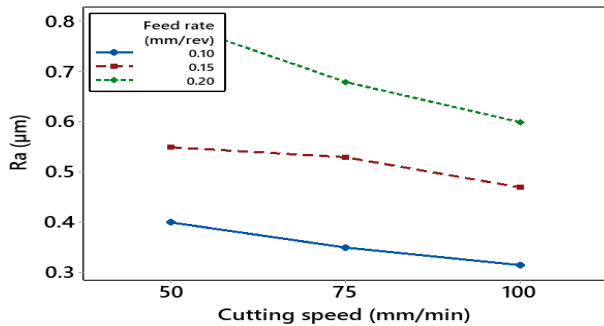


Figure 11: Effect of interaction of feed rate and cutting speed cut on surface roughness when using coated ceramic insert

At the case of coated ceramic insert, Fig. 12 shows the effect of interaction of feed rate and cutting speed on measured surface roughness. Same trend of relationship between cutting speed and surface roughness that found by coated ceramic insert was observed in the case of CBN insert at higher feed rate while different trends were observed at lower feed rates. Obvious decrease in surface roughness was found by low cutting speed (50 m/min) at lower values of feed rates (0.1 and 0.15 mm/rev). minimum surface roughness in this case was found by combination between low feed rate (0.1 mm/rev) and low cutting speed (50 m/min) and the maximum value was found at low cutting speed (50 m/min) and high feed rate (0.2 mm/rev).

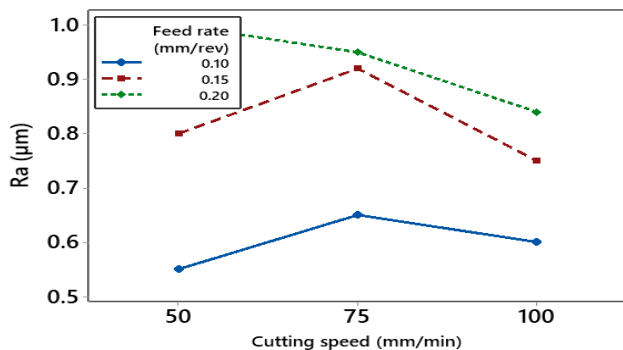


Figure 12: Effect of interaction of feed rate and cutting speed cut on surface roughness when using CBN insert

4. CONCLUSION

This paper has presented a comparison between coated ceramic and CBN inserts on surface roughness obtained by turning tests. The machining operations were carried out

with varying process parameters, entailing feed rate, cutting speed and depth of cut under dry conditions. The main conclusions are as follows.

1. Improvement in surface roughness by 34% when using coated ceramic insert than those achieved by CBN inserts.
2. CBN insert gave a better result at smallest depth of cut (0.15 mm) while coated ceramic tool gave a minimum surface roughness at depth of cut 0.2 mm.
3. For both cutting inserts, combination between low cutting speed (50 m/min) and low depth of cut (0.15mm) gave a smoother surface while low cutting speed (50 m/min) with combination with high depth of cut (0.25 mm) gave a rougher surface.

CREDIT AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Al Shima Abdelnasser: Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Writing – Original Draft
 Azza Barakat: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – review editing, Supervision
 Samar Elsanabary: Methodology, Writing – review & editing, Supervision,
 Ahmed Nassef : Writing – review & editing, Supervision

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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