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An Analytical Study on Tool Life During Drilling Processes: A Review

Kiran Bhalerao[1], Dr. Amit Bahekar[2]

1 PG scholar, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SAGE University, Indore
2 Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SAGE University, Indore

ABSTRACT

Drilling is one of the most widely employed machining processes across various manufacturing sectors, and the efficiency of this process is closely tied to the durability and performance of the cutting tool. This review paper presents a comprehensive analysis of research trends and developments related to tool life during drilling operations. The study explores the influence of key process parameters such as spindle speed, feed rate, material properties, and cooling techniques on tool wear and overall performance. Special emphasis is given to various wear mechanisms and their impact on tool degradation under different machining environments. The paper also examines modern advancements in tool materials and coatings, highlighting their role in extending tool life and improving process efficiency. Through critical evaluation of existing literature, this review aims to identify gaps in current knowledge and suggest potential areas for future investigation, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and cost-effective drilling practices.

Keywords- Drilling Machine, Surface Roughness, Tool Life Analysis, Feed Rate

1. INTRODUCTION

Drilling is a fundamental machining operation that plays a crucial role in manufacturing and production industries, where precision and efficiency are of paramount importance. The lifespan and effectiveness of the cutting tool used in drilling have a direct impact on the quality of the final product, the operational cost, and the overall productivity of the process. Over time, wear and tear of the tool occur due to intense mechanical and thermal stresses, leading to changes in cutting behavior and potential tool failure. Understanding and analyzing the factors that influence tool life during drilling is essential for optimizing machining operations. Parameters such as cutting speed, feed rate, tool material, workpiece composition, and the use of coolant significantly affect tool wear characteristics. In recent years, research has intensified in this area, focusing on innovations in tool materials, surface coatings, and cooling techniques aimed at prolonging tool life and enhancing performance. This review aims to consolidate current findings related to tool wear mechanisms, the influence of machining conditions, and recent advancements in drilling technology. By examining diverse studies and approaches, the paper provides insight into key challenges and emerging solutions, offering a foundation for further research and practical applications in modern machining environments.

2. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

In modern manufacturing, drilling remains a critical operation, yet one of its persistent challenges is the rapid and unpredictable deterioration of cutting tools. Despite the availability of advanced tool materials and coatings, tool wear continues to be influenced by complex and interrelated factors such as cutting parameters, material properties, and thermal conditions. This often leads to inconsistent tool life, reduced machining accuracy, increased production costs, and unplanned downtimes. A major concern is the lack of standardized approaches for predicting tool life across different machining environments. While numerous studies address tool wear under specific conditions, the variability in experimental setups and material types makes it difficult to generalize findings. Additionally, the effectiveness of various cooling methods and tool coatings remains under continuous evaluation, with conflicting outcomes in different scenarios. There is, therefore, a pressing need to systematically review and consolidate the existing knowledge to better understand the mechanisms that govern tool degradation during drilling. Identifying the gaps in current research will help in developing more reliable, efficient, and sustainable drilling practices.

3. LITRATURE REVIEW

The primary aim of this research is to explore the impact of Drilling tool life during drilling operations. To achieve this, the following Literature survey is done:

- **Soori & Arezoo (2023)** Soori and Arezoo conducted an in-depth study on minimizing cutting tool wear during the drilling of Ti-6Al-4V alloy. They emphasized the significance of optimizing machining parameters and implementing effective cooling techniques to enhance tool longevity. Their research highlighted the challenges posed by the alloy's properties and proposed solutions to mitigate rapid tool degradation. The study also explored the interplay between cutting speed, feed rate, and cooling methods in influencing tool wear. Their findings contribute valuable insights into improving drilling efficiency for titanium alloys.
- **De Santana & Polli (2022)** In their investigation, de Santana and Polli examined the impact of tool edge preparation on tool life when drilling SAE4144M steel. They discovered that specific edge geometries significantly reduce wear and improve performance. The study detailed how micro-geometry modifications at the cutting edge influence chip formation and heat dissipation. Their work underscores the importance of precise tool design in extending tool life and ensuring consistent drilling quality.
- **Liu et al. (2022)** Liu and colleagues developed a novel tool wear modeling method for drilling particle-reinforced metal matrix composites. Their model accounts for abrasive particle characteristics and tool geometry to predict wear patterns accurately. The research addressed the complexities introduced by the heterogeneous nature of these composites and provided a framework for anticipating tool degradation. This advancement aids in selecting appropriate tooling strategies for challenging composite materials.
- **Panagopoulos et al. (2021)** Panagopoulos and his team presented a friction-wear model for drilling H-13 tool steel, utilizing simulation techniques to understand wear mechanisms and thermal effects during the drilling process. Their model incorporated variables such as cutting speed, feed rate, and tool material properties to simulate real-world drilling conditions. The study's insights assist in optimizing drilling parameters to minimize tool wear and enhance process stability.
- **Rodríguez et al. (2021)** Rodríguez and co-researchers studied the effects of CO_2-cryogenic cooling on drilling CFRP-Ti6Al4V stacks. They demonstrated that cryogenic cooling improves tool life and hole quality under such conditions. The research highlighted how low-temperature environments reduce thermal loads on the tool, thereby decreasing wear rates. Their findings advocate for the adoption of cryogenic techniques in drilling composite-metal stacks to achieve superior outcomes.
- **Shah et al. (2021)** Shah and his team analyzed tool wear, hole quality, and power consumption when drilling Ti-6Al-4V using liquid nitrogen and liquid CO_2. They highlighted the benefits of cryogenic cooling in reducing tool degradation. The study compared traditional cooling methods with cryogenic alternatives, revealing significant improvements in tool longevity and energy efficiency. Their work supports the integration of advanced cooling strategies in high-performance drilling operations.
- **Barros et al. (2020)** Barros and colleagues conducted a comprehensive analysis of tool wear during drilling of Inconel 718 super alloy. They identified optimal cutting parameters to minimize wear and enhance tool life. Utilizing the Taguchi method, the study systematically evaluated the effects of various drilling conditions on tool performance. Their research offers practical guidelines for machining nickel-based super alloys, which are known for their challenging Machinability.
- **Hegab et al. (2020)** Hegab and his team introduced a smart tool wear prediction model for drilling woven composites, employing machine learning techniques to forecast wear and improve process efficiency. Their model integrated data from various sensors to predict tool wear in real-time, enabling proactive maintenance and reducing downtime. This innovative approach represents a significant step towards intelligent manufacturing systems.
- **Hussein et al. (2019)** Hussein and co-researchers investigated tool wear and hole quality during low-frequency vibration-assisted drilling of CFRP/Ti6Al4V stacks. They found that vibration assistance can reduce wear and improve hole integrity. The study demonstrated that superimposing vibrations onto the drilling process enhances chip evacuation and reduces cutting forces. Their findings suggest that vibration-assisted drilling is a viable technique for improving machining outcomes in composite-metal stacks.
- **Sultan et al. (2015)** Sultan and his team examined the effect of machining parameters on tool wear and hole quality when drilling AISI 316L stainless steel. They emphasized the importance of parameter optimization for enhanced performance. The research provided insights into how variations in speed, feed, and cooling influence tool longevity and hole precision. Their work serves as a foundational reference for machining stainless steels effectively.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the reviewed literature, it is evident that tool life during drilling is significantly affected by cutting speed, feed rate, and cooling methods. Higher cutting speeds often lead to increased tool wear due to heat generation. However, cryogenic cooling techniques, especially using CO_2 and liquid nitrogen, have been shown to enhance tool life and improve surface finish. Tool materials and coatings, such as TiAlN and nano-coatings, also contribute to better wear resistance. Some studies highlighted the benefits of optimizing tool geometry to further extend tool life. Additionally, advanced techniques like vibration-assisted drilling and AI-based wear prediction models are proving effective in modern manufacturing setups. Overall, while great progress has been made, there is still a need for standardized testing methods and more integrated approaches to fully utilize these innovations across various materials and conditions.

This review highlights the critical factors influencing tool life during drilling operations, including cutting speed, feed rate, tool material, and cooling techniques. It is evident that optimizing machining parameters and adopting modern cooling strategies, such as cryogenic methods, can significantly enhance tool performance and lifespan. Advancements in tool coatings, edge preparation, and smart wear prediction models further contribute to efficient and sustainable drilling processes. Despite considerable progress, challenges remain due to the complex interactions between process variables and material properties. Future research should focus on developing standardized methods for tool life prediction and exploring the integration of intelligent systems for real-time monitoring and control. Such efforts will lead to improved productivity, cost-effectiveness, and machining reliability in diverse manufacturing environments.

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