

## Investigate Temperature Preheating on the Chill Plate to Identify Surface Characteristic on the Ductile Iron by Sand Casting

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Received: 27 February 2021  
Accepted: 30 April 2021  
Published: 15 July 2021  
Publisher: Deer Hill Publications  
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### ABSTRACT

The chilled casting method is widely used in the metal casting industry to accelerate the mold's cooling rate. This method is very suitable for surface hardening by depositing the elements contained in the chill material onto the surface of the object being cast. One of the factors that influence surface hardness characteristics is the diffusion temperature. This study aims to determine the microhardness, surface layer thickness, and the element contained on the surface. The main material produced into Y-Block is ductile cast iron, the chill material is SS 304 plate with a thickness of 0.2mm. However, before the liquid material is poured into a mold, the chill plate is inserted into the surface of the pattern in the mold, then the plate was preheated. The result showed that the highest preheating temperature has produced microstructure around the surface area namely eutectic carbide of  $(FeCr)_7C_3$ , and  $(FeCr)_3C$ . SEM-EDX analysis shows that 7.13%Cr is contained on the coating layer at a thickness of 0.020 mm and an average hardness of 700-900 HV.

**Keywords:** Chill, Casting, Surface Hardening, Diffusion, Preheating.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

In the metal foundry industry, the chilled casting method is used to harden the specimen surface hence it is resistant to high wear. Chill is a high thermal conductivity material or component used to accelerate the cooling of metal in the mold. Its use also increases productivity level, improves product defects in the surface area, and enhances the casted product's mechanical properties [1, 2]. The important factor to consider when using the chill for the surface hardening process is the composition structure in the material deposited onto the surface of the object being cast. Therefore, to understand the formation of a deposited crystal structure that forms on the surface of the object, it is necessary to consider several phenomena, such as thermal, hydrodynamic, and physico-chemical [3]. Until now, the chill has been widely used in aluminium, steel, and cast-iron casting. In aluminium casting, it is used to increase the rate of heat transfer from the surface of the chill to the object being cast and increase high hardness and smooth grain structures. The thicker the chill used, the greater the heat absorbed to the surface. Therefore, in the solidification step, the casting material tends to cool more slowly at the centre area but quickly cools in the surface area [4-7]. Cantavel et al. applied the chill method to steel casting. It is also used to characterize the surface of grey cast iron to make it hard. Hardness is formed due to the diffusion of Cr, Ni, Cu granular structures and other element content, thereby leading to the formation of white iron on the surface through very fast cooling [8-10]. Chill can also be applied to camshaft casting using grey cast iron materials and ductile cast iron type GJS-400 used to increase cooling speed and the nodule count, thereby improving the microstructural properties [11, 12] and forming a eutectic carbide structure based on the alloying of the elements Cr, Mo, and Ti through fast cooling rates [13-15]. Manganese elements can also be used to make chills in ductile iron castings; however, they are unable to overcome the high hardness of the component surfaces to wear-resistant [1]. One of the materials commonly used for made the chill is copper or cast iron. The chill is placed on the surface of the pattern hole in the mold to adjust the fast-cooling rate on the surface of the specimen to be cast [16]. Chill is made of copper material and combined with 1.5% Cr to produce Ferro carbide, thereby making it to wear and abrasion resistant. Chill is usually used to coat the mold walls, hence the

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Reference: Natalino et al. (2021). Investigate Temperature Preheating on the Chill Plate to Identify Surface Characteristic on the Ductile Iron by Sand Casting. *International Journal of Engineering Materials and Manufacture*, 6(3), 141-151.

liquid poured into the mold tends to rapidly transform the cooling process until there is fast solidification in the outer layer of the specimen. In this way, a dendritic granule structure easily forms in the skin layer due to the touch between the chill-coated mold wall and the solid specimen at high temperatures [17]. This is similar to the method used by Ma Qian et al. [18] whereby the mold walls were coated with SS 304 plate with the melted material poured into the mold. The result is the formation of eutectic carbides, namely  $(FeCr)_7C_3$ ,  $(FeCr)_3C$ ,  $M_3C$ , and  $M_7C_3$ . This eutectic carbide alloys formed are dependent on the chemical composition and cooling rate during solidification [19, 20]. The principle for the formation of iron carbide on the surface due to chill casting occurs owing to diffusion, which is a change in the composition of the deposited interfaces in the absence of the compound. Factors that greatly influence the diffusion process are temperature and chemical bonding, where the higher of diffusion temperature, the better the binding ability of the deposited structure. Low diffusion temperatures tend to have an adverse effect on hardened surfaces, thereby leading to surface morphology. Furthermore, morphological characterization occurs by compacting and creating a needle-shaped hole in the surface. An atom's mobility on a surface depends on its energy, atom-surface interactions (chemical bonding), and surface temperature [21, 22]. As research conducted by M. Ramadan, the annealing temperature above  $700^\circ C$  and holding time of 180min will diffuse the Cr-Ni-C element on the surface of the ductile iron, thereby increasing the hardness of the outer skin layer [23]. As for research from Shi, Z et al. using Fe-Cr-C as a hardfacing alloy then doped with Ce elements to increase the ductility and toughness of materials, but it still did not increase the high hardness on the surface [24]. Also, the element chromium is commonly used to bond preferentially to other elements to increase the hardness of the material [25, 26]. Therefore, based on these reasons, the authors tried to perform surface hardening of the martensitic ductile cast iron material using the chilled casting method. The application of chilled cast iron focuses on the diffusion system between the chill material and the object surface. Moreover, the atomic structure's attachment diffused from the chill material is influenced by the temperature in the area of interaction between the chill and the object surface. But there is also a research question that does the use of preheating on chill affect the hardness of the material, the thickness of the deposited atomic layer, and the formation of the microstructure? Then the researchers decided the purpose of this study is to determine the microhardness, surface layer thickness, and the element contained on the surface with the difference in preheating temperature parameters that are distributed to the chill plate before the pouring process.

## 2 MATERIALS PREPARATION AND EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

### 2.1 Material Preparation

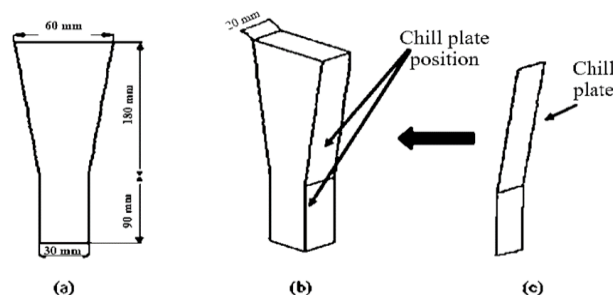
The melting materials used to form martensitic ductile iron are scrap steel and iron. The ductile iron utilized in this study has a grade of 120-90-02 according to ASTM A536 standards, which is recommended for users to make wear-resistant components such as gears, crankshafts, and others [27, 28]. Furthermore, the shape of the casted sample is Y-Block, as shown in Figures 1a and 1b, coded from S1 to S4. The material used to design the chill is austenitic stainless-steel SS 304 plate with chemical composition, as shown in Table 1. This composition material has according to standard ASTM A240 [29].

**Table 1:** Chemical composition of the stainless steel 304 sheet, ASTM A 240 [29].

| C     | Si   | Mn   | Ni  | Cr    | Fe    |
|-------|------|------|-----|-------|-------|
| 0.059 | 0.27 | 1.37 | 4,9 | 19,34 | 72,78 |

### 2.2 Chill Design Process and Its Use

The chill size and shape, according to the casted specimen as show in Figure 1. The chill plate to be inserted into each specimen is one sheet, and the total number prepared for the 4 Y-Block specimens to be produced is 4 sheets. The chill manufacturing process is SS 304 plate cut into rectangles with a length and width of 270mm and 25mm and bent according to the specimen shape. The number of chill plates according to the variation of the preheating temperature, is shown in Table 2.



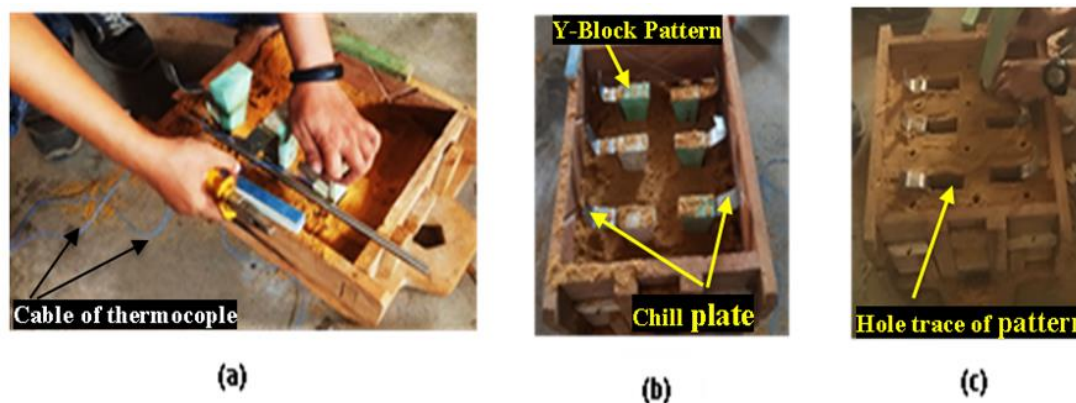
**Figure 1:** Pattern and chill plate; (a) the type and dimension of pattern; (b) 3D view of the pattern and position chill plate on the pattern; (c) chill plate.

**Table 2:** Preheating parameters to identify different sample group.

| Code of Sample | The thickness of the SS 304 plats | Preheating to surface of chill plate (°C) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| S1             | 0.2 mm                            | 500°C                                     |
| S2             | 0.2 mm                            | 700°C                                     |
| S3             | 0.2 mm                            | 900°C                                     |
| S4             | 0.2 mm                            | Not Preheating                            |

### 2.3 Mold Preparation

The mold is made of wooden slabs with a thickness of 20mm then formed into a box model with width, length and depth of 200mm, 300mm and 300mm respectively as show in Figure 2. Furthermore, the mold box is filled with high mesh class silica sand, mixed with water glass and methanol liquid, and stirred to homogeneity. In the next process, silica sand is poured into a box to create a hole trace pattern in accordance with the planned specimen shape and dried with CO<sub>2</sub> gas. However, before the silica sand is poured into the mold, the chill plate, Y-Block pattern, and thermocouple cable were first attached to the surface and positioned in the mold as show in Figures 2a and 2b. This research made use of the HT-9815 thermocouple thermometer with 4 cables embedded into the sand and touched the surface of the chill plate. The function is used to detect the preheating temperature on the surface of the chill plate.



**Figure 2:** Model of molding and specimen adjustment procedure. a) thermocouple cable installation touched to the chill plate; b) the sample arranged in the mold; c) plate chill condition on the surface of a tracing pattern.

### 2.4 Preheating Technique and Pouring Process

The pouring process is carried out after the chill plate is preheated according to the sample code given as show in the Table 2. It comprises three LPG gas cylinders and one O<sub>2</sub> tube. The flow of gas and oxygen is sprayed through the four torch gas blenders that have been provided to point to the chill plate surface. Hence the flame emitted to the plate surface needs to reach the target temperature. Furthermore, nodular cast iron material, which has been melted at a temperature of 1500°C and was inoculated with 0.3-0.7% Fe-Si alloy then poured into the mold simultaneously.

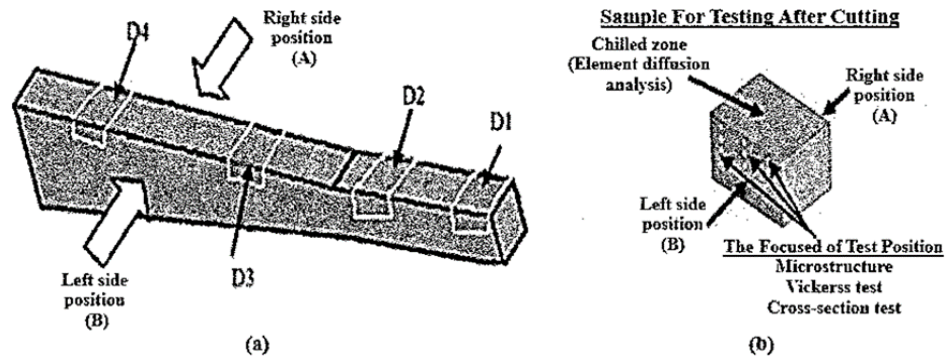
## 3 Testing and Analysis

### 3.1 Microstructure and Mechanical Properties Examination

The microstructure analysis is based on the ASTM 247 procedure, using an Olympus BX41M optical microscope. After cutting, the specimen is polished with sandpaper (400, 800, 1500, and 2000), then etched with nital 98mL ethanol and 2mL nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>) based on the test guide on ASM Handbook Vol. 9. The sample is cut without being exposed to high heat. Furthermore, the sample size for the microstructure analysis and microhardness Vickers test is 10 x 10 x 6mm [30, 31]. The test point areas are taken from each Y-Block specimen of six products as show in the Table 2, and it has been given the codes of D1, D2, D3, and D4 and are cut in different areas as shown in Figure 3a. These points are carried out on two sides, namely right site A and left site B, and each zone for each test sample has 9 test points, as shown in Figure 3b.

Figure 3b shows that there are three group test focus locations, and each has three points. Therefore, the total number of test points of microhardness Vickers for each of all specimens (S1, S2, S3, and S4) is 72, then the results are summed to take the average value. Testing for microhardness Vickers using the Mitutoyo HM-200, a Vickers indenter and a 200gf load is used to determine the diffusion area's hardness layer. The test area in each sample for microhardness testing is the same as the microstructure. However, the distance between one test point and another is according to

standard ASTM E92 [32] about standard test method for Vickers hardness of metallic materials, the microhardness test point starts from the edge towards the centre, and the number of indenter focus is three.



**Figure 3:** Microstructure and microhardness Vickers testing zone for every specimen Y-Block (a) location for focus analysis point (b) total of analysis point for each site zone (right site zone and left site zone) and for all sample testing after cutting.

### 3.2 Coating and Chemical Distribution Analysis

The chemical composition of the ductile iron material that has been analyzed is in the middle area of the specimen. One Y-Block sample was taken to represent the entire specimen. The type of machine used is the ARL Optic Emission Spectrometer and types Switzerland QTD-17. SEM-EDX is used to identify contaminated or unknown particle interactions between two materials from ductile cast iron and austenitic stainless steel (SS 304). The expected results are the percentage of element content deposited in the surface area will be detected by EDX, and the coating layer's thickness on the surface measured by cross-section probes. Furthermore, the measurement process for the diffusion thickness layer was processed by ImageJ, then measurements were taken ten times to take the average value. SEM-EDX type used is JEOL - JSM-6510LA under a voltage of 20kV and a working distance of 16mm. Analysis samples for cross-section and target diffusion are taken in the same area as the microhardness test as show in Figure 3b.

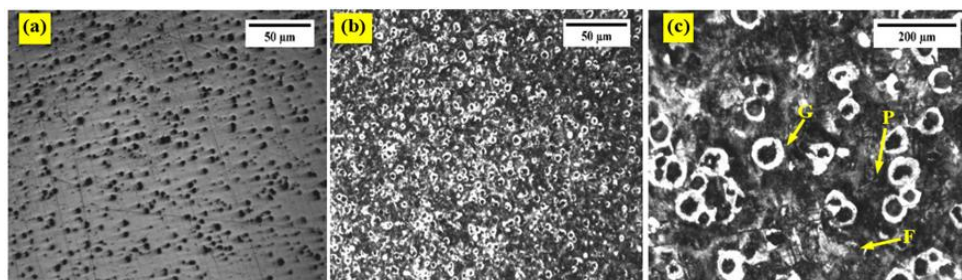
## 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 The Result of Chemical Composition on The Ductile Iron

The chemical composition contained in the Y-Block ductile iron material includes 3.75%C, 0.47%Mn, 2.03%Si, 0.04%Cr, 0.17%Ni, 0.07%Mo, 0.15%Cu, 0.02%P, 0.15%Ce, 0.06%Mg and the other is Fe. The results of this chemical composition analysis have responded to the material specifications for ductile cast iron according to standard of ASTM A 536 [27], which is recommended for the manufacture of wear-resistant components such as wheel pinions, gears, rollers and slides, these components are hard and wear-resistant on the surface but in the middle area must be ductile.

### 4.2 The Formation of Microstructure at The Centre Zone

The microstructure analysis process associated with this research was carried out on the surface and the center zone. The microstructure found in the center zone for all samples (S1, S2, S3 and S4) shows that graphite nodules are uniformly and roundly formed, with a ferrite and perlite structure phase, as shown in Figure 4. This graphite structure is under the specifications of the nodular cast iron material according to the ASTM A 536 standard [27] which is carried out through an inoculation process. In this nodularization process, magnesium (Mg) alloy elements will be added to get a round of the graphite nodule so that the ductile iron base material can withstand tensile loads and impact loads according to researchs Sasaki et al. [33] and Yamamoto S et al. [34].



**Figure 4:** (a) Uniformity of graphite nodules before etched; (b) Graphite nodule growth uniformly after etched and microscopic magnification 50x, (c) Uniformity of graphite nodules with microscopic magnification 200x (G: graphite nodule, P: perlite and F:  $\alpha$ -Ferrite).

The microstructure found in the surface and the centre area is different. Figure 5 shows that the microstructure formation on specimen S4 is average and consists of a fully ferritic-matrix microstructure. Therefore, with the rapid cooling process, eutectic carbide formation and a microstructure containing cementite, ferrite, and pearlite are very uniform and compact on the surface area. The use of fast cooling leads to the formation of graphite flakes, also known as martensite, in the surface area. The formation of this matrix structure is due to rapid cooling with the use of chill, therefore cementite occurs as a separate constituent in the matrix. In other cases, no diffusion layer was seen between the chill and the ductile iron interface.

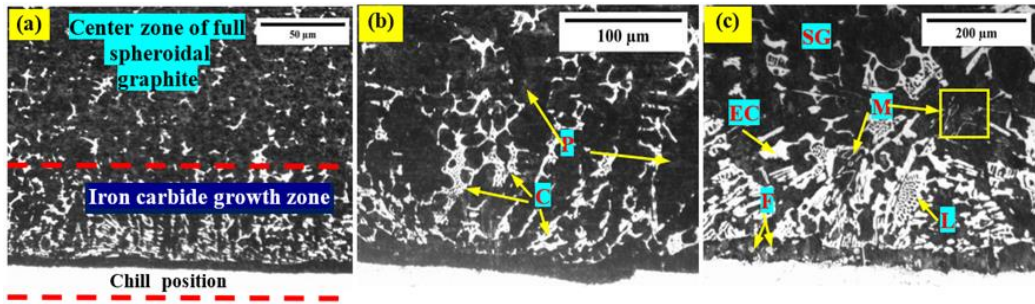
#### 4.3 The Formation of Microstructure at The Surface

The microstructure found in the surface and the center area is different. Figure 5 show that the microstructure formation on specimen S4 is average and consists of a fully ferritic-matrix microstructure. Therefore, with the rapid cooling process, eutectic carbide formation and a microstructure containing cementite, ferrite, and pearlite are very uniform and compact on the surface area, as explained by Riposan L. et al. [25] that the graphite carbide structure is formed at the end of the solidification step in the ductile iron casting process [35, 36]. This occurs due to the rapid cooling of the interface through contraction between the cast liquid and the mold wall. The use of fast cooling leads to the formation of graphite flakes, also known as martensite, in the surface area. The formation of this matrix structure is due to rapid cooling with the use of chill, therefore cementite occurs as a separate constituent in the matrix. In other cases, no diffusion layer was seen between the chill and the ductile iron interface.

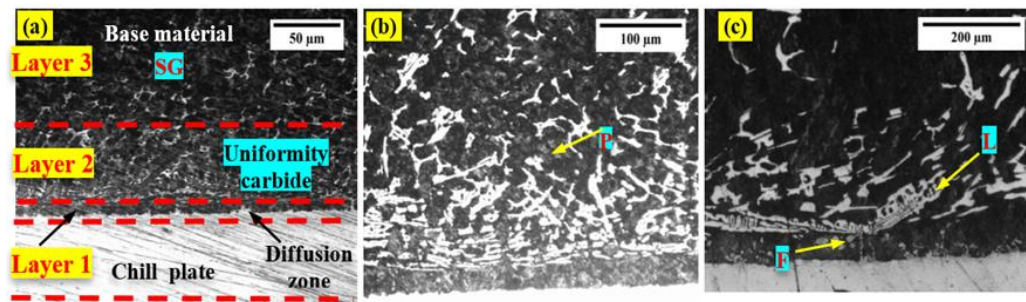
The microstructure results for Sample S1 are shown in Figure 6, using a preheating temperature of 500°C, with very uniform Ferro carbide in the edge area. Also, the phase structure is randomly formed around the graphite nodule, which is visible because the main material used for all cast specimens is ductile iron. Therefore, chill uses SS 304 material dominated by the composition elements of 19.34%Cr and 4.9%Ni (Table 1). Furthermore, at the interfacial austenite temperature, the chill and ductile iron succeeded in depositing Cr and Ni elements onto the ductile iron surface. The coating area is found to be a primary eutectic carbide or Cr-carbide structure and is defined as  $(FeCr)_3C$ , where more details are explained in the EDX analysis results. According to Vander Voort and Baldwin, chromium carbide is formed with the cooling rate of solidification and the 5%Cr composition. This carbide structure characteristic is very good for high wear-resistant [37].

Figures 7 describe the sample S2 and the parameters using a preheating temperature of 700°C. The type of microstructure formed in the edge area is similar to the S1 sample, which is dominated by Ferro carbide. The phase structure found near the coating area, and the perlite phase around the graphite nodule was acicular ferrite. A ledeburite phase forms in areas far from the diffusion region, while a structure eutectic carbide, also known as a white cast iron layer, is formed in the coating area. The eutectic carbide structure is called  $(FeCr)_7C_3$ , and this structure is formed due to the diffusion of the Cr and Ni structures contained in the chill material at a preheating temperature of 700°C. The higher preheating temperature used in the chilled casting process has minimized the cooling rate at the chill and ductile iron interface, thereby preventing the formation of the iron carbide structure over low surface areas.

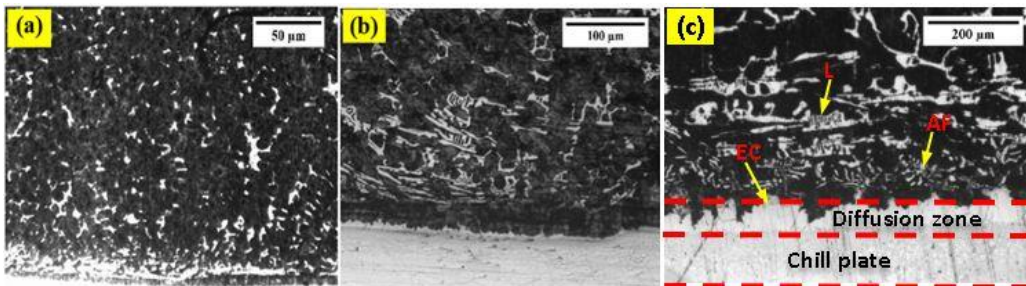
The microstructure formation on the surface of the S3 specimen using the preheating temperature of 900°C as shown in Figure 8, that the average microstructure consists of ferrous carbide and acicular ferrite near the diffusion zone with the small number of martensite phases. The microstructure growth in the diffusion zone is a very large eutectic carbide called  $(FeCr)_7C_3$  because the element Cr diffuses too much to the surface. Meanwhile, Figure 8c shows that the diffusion layer formed on the surface has been shifting inward, this layer is the ledeburite phase or the so-called white cast iron layer which is dominant in the surface layer. These results as discussed by Elorz P-Sanz et al. [38]. Diffusion element and layer thickness is discussed in the EDX analysis.



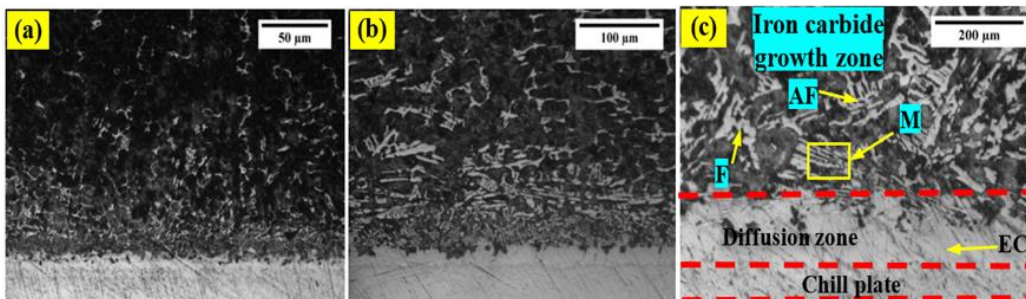
**Figure 5:** Average microstructure formation on the surface of the samples (S4). (a. microscopic magnification 50x; b. microscopic magnification 100x, c. microscopic magnification 200x). (P=perlite; C=cementite; EC=eutectic carbide; M=martensite; L=ledeburite; F=ferrite; SG=spheroidal graphite).



**Figure 6:** Average microstructure formation on the surface of the samples (S1). (a. Sample S1 microscopic magnification 50x; b. microscopic magnification 100x; c. microscopic magnification 200x). (P=perlite; L=ledeburite; F=ferrite; SG=spheroidal graphite).



**Figure 7:** Average microstructure formation on the surface of the S2 samples. (a. Sample S1 microscopic magnification 50x; b. microscopic magnification 100x; c. microscopic magnification 200x). (AF=Acicular ferrite, EC=eutectic carbide; L=ledeburite).



**Figure 8:** Average microstructure formation on the surface of the S3 samples. (a. Sample S1 microscopic magnification 50x; b. microscopic magnification 100x; c. microscopic magnification 200x). (AF = Acicular ferrite, EC=eutectic carbide; M=martensite; F=ferrite).

#### 4.4 EDX and Microhardness Vickers Test

The results of SEM-EDX are taken from different temperature parameters, then they will be compared between the use of low and high temperatures preheating. Also, samples using the preheating will be compared with samples that do not use the preheating. During the EDX measurement, different areas were focused and the corresponding peaks are shown in Figure 9 and 10. The results of samples that did not use preheating (S4) on the plate chill before the pouring process were elements of chromium and nickel which diffused onto the surface of the ductile iron is 0.08% Cr and 0.06% Ni as show in Figures 9a and 10a). In the surface area, there are few Cr and Ni elements because these elements are mixed in the original ductile cast iron based on the ASTM 536 standard. It can be seen that Cr and Ni elements dominate all specimens in the centre and surface area. Solidification temperature and elemental content affect the formation of ferro carbide in the matrix, besides that the Cr and Carbon content affect the atomic diffusion process in the  $M_7C_3$  carbide matrix as described by Li P. et al. [39].

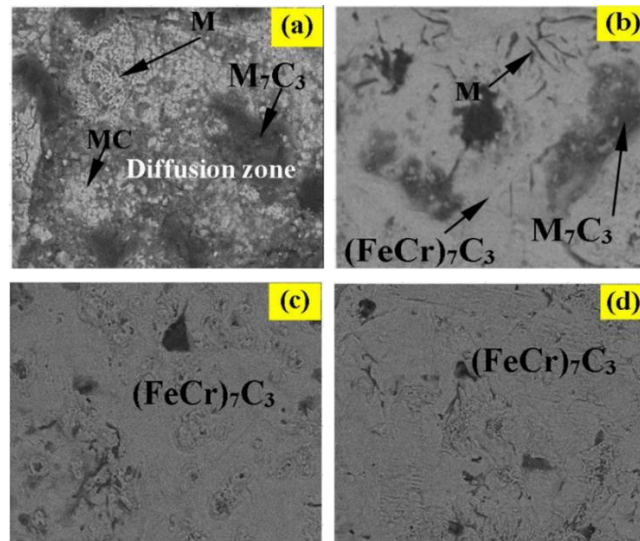
The result of the diffusion contains 2.04%Cr and a little 0.26%Ni formed on the local of the surface of sample S1, quantify by EDX as shown in Figures 10b and 9b. The formation of the alloy composition elements is caused by the diffusion of the chill material elements when the preheating temperature distribution is 500°C to the surface of the chill plate. Also, the average amount of microhardness achieved is 500HV. But there were also some test zones where the hardness value was found to be 700HV.

The sample for use preheating temperature 700°C (S2), that the element diffusion formed on the surface layer consists of the content of 3.23%Cr and 0.97%Ni as shown in Figures 10c and 9c. The alloy formation of the composition elements is higher than using a temperature of 500°C. After several microhardness tests were carried out that the average hardness value was 500 and certain areas had the highest hardness randomly reaching 800HV.

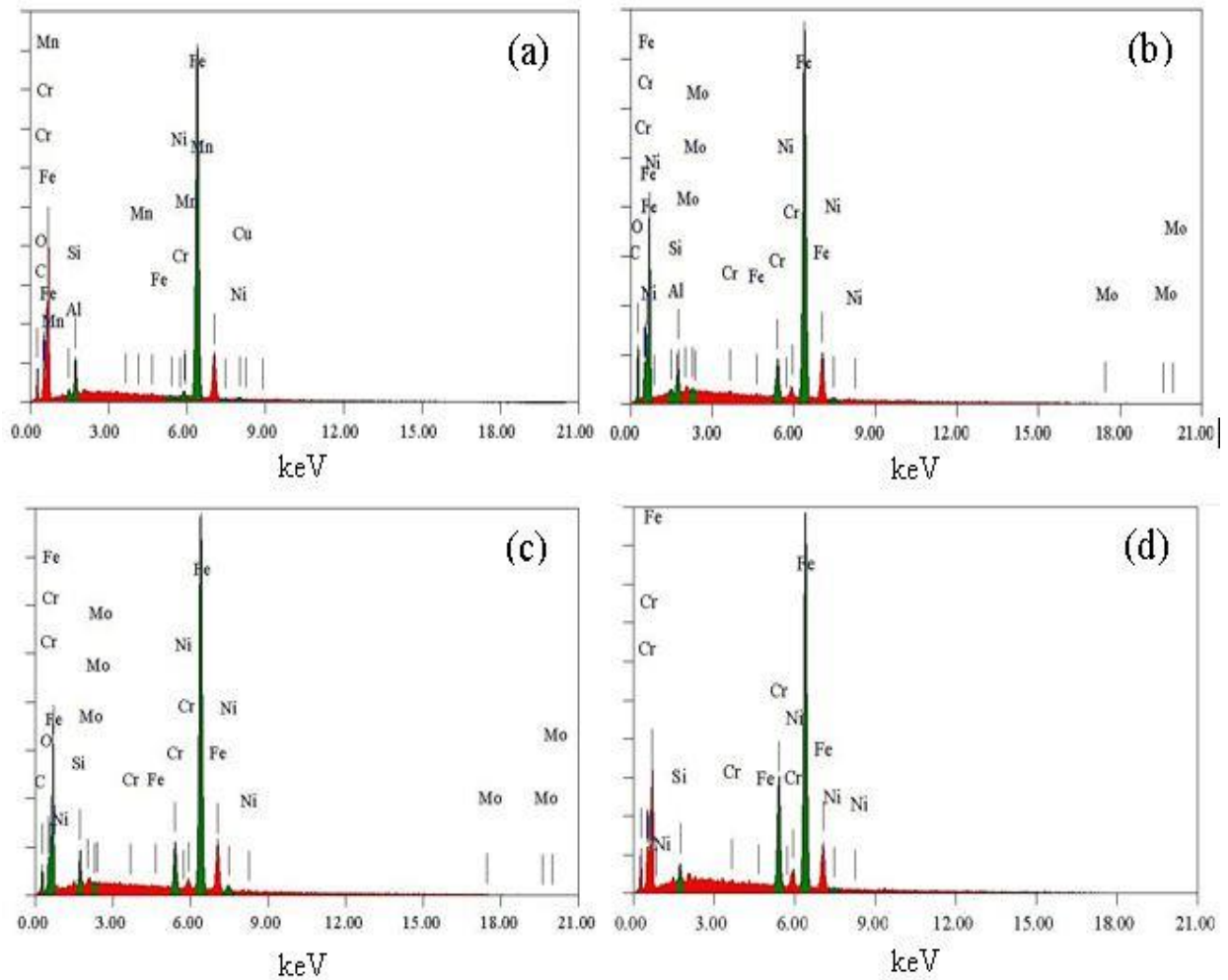
Sample S3 shows that the result of diffusion formed a Cr content of 7.13% and 0.21%Ni as shown in Figures 10d and 9d. The alloy formation of the composition elements is higher than using temperatures of 700°C and 500°C. Diffusion of Cr and Ni elements by using preheating temperature of 900°C to the chill face and ductile iron has an average microhardness is 900HV. The highest hardness values found in the few areas reached 939.3HV. By using the higher diffusion temperatures will increase higher hardness, as research conducted by Ali Günen et al [40]. Details of the three EDX spectra and different temperature preheating of the element formed on the surface zone are listed in Table 3. EDX weight ratio of elements deposition (Cr, Ni, and C) using three spectrums focused on three distinct areas then the average will be taken for comparison. EDX detects the Chromium value shown in Table 3, that is for the S3 sample by using a preheating temperature of 900°C, the diffused chromium element is 7.13%. EDX analysis results show that, in the surface area of nodular cast iron, iron carbide has been formed which is white mixed with grey colour as show in Figure 9d, the type of the structure matrix is  $(FeCr)7C_3$ , as described by Lagos M. A. et al [41] that iron-chromium carbide is very hard and good for wear, abrasion, corrosion and oxidation resistance. High chromium alloys will have an impact on the formation of chromium carbide with high hardness but depending on the content of carbon and other elements, the lower carbon value will reduce the formation of  $M_7C_3$ ,  $M_{23}C_6$ , and  $M_3C$ , in the coating area, as research conducted by Jillah, A. et al. and Li, Y et al. [42, 43]. Besides that, there is also a Nickel (Ni) content, its function is to extend the austenite field. Nickel has no impact on the carbide formation process because the Nickel content in the diffusion layer is very small.

**Table 3:** EDX weight ratio of elements deposition (CrNi) using three spectrums focused on three distinct areas of surface for all specimens.

| Temperature preheating | Carbon (C) |            | Silicon (Si) |            | Chromium (Cr) |            | Nickel (Ni) |            |
|------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                        | Weight (%) | Atomic (%) | Weight (%)   | Atomic (%) | Weight (%)    | Atomic (%) | Weight (%)  | Atomic (%) |
| Not using preheating   | 18.67      | 47.53      | 1.98         | 2.16       | 0.13          | 0.08       | 0.11        | 0.06       |
| 500°C                  | 26.01      | 57.93      | 1.65         | 1.57       | 3.93          | 2.04       | 0.56        | 0.26       |
| 700°C                  | 14.77      | 40.83      | 1.79         | 2.11       | 5.06          | 3.23       | 1.72        | 0.97       |
| 900°C                  | 27.88      | 46.58      | 0.78         | 0.87       | 11.85         | 7.13       | 0.40        | 0.21       |



**Figure 9:** Energy Dispersive X-Ray (EDX) analysis to quantify the deposition of atom on the diffusion zone. (a) Sample S4, (b) Sample S1, (c) Sample S2, (d) Sample S3. (M: martensite, MC: metal carbide).



**Figure 10:** Energy Dispersive X-Ray (EDX) analysis to quantify the deposition of atom on the surface. (a) Sample S4, (b) Sample S1, (c) Sample S2, (d) Sample S3. (M: martensite, MC: metal carbide).



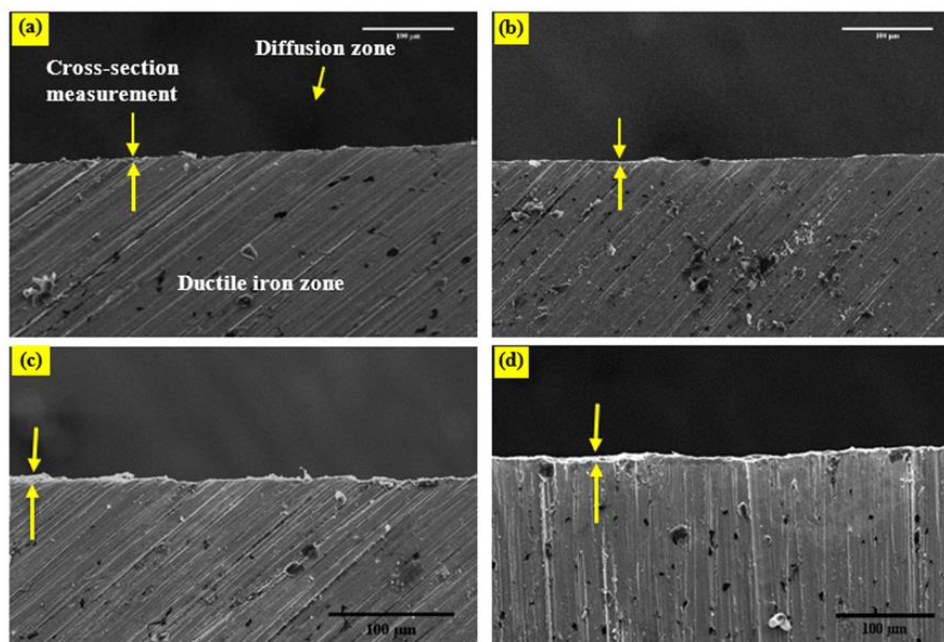
#### 4.4 The Thickness Layer Measurement

The measurement process using SEM Cross-section for sample S4 were not using preheating before the pouring process, although not using preheating, the casting process still uses plate chill, so that the results can be compared with other parameters. The results obtained are an average thickness value of 0.011mm from ten measurements, while the deviation value was 1.72mm as show in Figure 11a).

SEM Cross-section analysis results for S1 samples using 500°C preheating temperature is an analysis of the position of the cross-section with an average thickness distance of 0.012mm from 10 measurements and a deviation value of 0.001mm. Measurements were made on the white layer area, as shown in Figure 11b).

The results for S2 samples with a preheating temperature of 700°C obtained an average thickness of coating layer of 0.015mm from 10 measurements and a deviation value of 1.165mm. Measurements were made on the white layer area as show in Figure 11c). Meanwhile, there is a deposition of Cr and Ni elements on the surface, resulting in high hardness. Things related to the research of Silva Leandro J. da L et al. [44] and Janicki D. Et al. [45] that the good bonding of the elements and the number of coated particles on the surface largely determine wear performance.

The results for sample S3 using a preheating temperature of 900°C obtained an average layer thickness on the white layer at the edge of the surface areas, reaching 0.020mm from 10 measurements to obtain the average value. The deviation value is 0.001mm, as shown in Figure 11d). By using a preheating temperature of 900 has produced a high thickness of the iron carbide layer when compared to using a lower preheating temperature. These results will predict resistance to contact fatigue loads on components, based on the research of Li W. et al. [46] and Rajinikanth V. et al. [47] that the elements that diffuse to the surface are deeper or thicker, this will be occurring resistant to contact fatigue loads.



**Figure 11:** The thickness layer analysis by cross-section testing. (a) thickness layer of sample not using preheating process (S4), (b) thickness layer of the sample by using temperatur preheating 500°C (S1), (c) the thickness layer of the sample by using temperatur preheating 700°C (S2), (d) the thickness layer of the sample by using temperatur preheating 900°C (S3).

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

This research described investigations related to variations in preheating temperature on chill plates against hardness values, surface layer thickness, and chemical diffusion on ductile cast iron surfaces. Therefore, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. By using the preheating method for the chill plate before the pouring process, it has resulted in a different surface layer by not using preheating.
2. Compared with do not use preheating proses on the chill plate, the formation of a carbide eutectic structure on the surface of Y-Block specimens with a thickness of 0.012mm to 0.020mm, increases the hardness up to 900HV. Furthermore, by preheating, it can diffuse Chromium elements onto the ductile iron surface to form  $(FeCr)_3C$  and  $(FeCr)_7C_3$  structures called ledeburite structures, which are categorized as white cast iron with a high hardness.

3. High preheating temperatures increase the thickness of the hardness layer on the ductile iron surface and raise the high hardness value on the surface. The higher preheating temperature used, the greater the chromium element's ability that diffuses to the ductile iron surface to reach 7.13%. Furthermore, the increase in the chromium element's value leads to the formation of a  $(\text{FeCr})_7\text{C}_3$  structure, thereby increasing the high hardness value on the surface.
4. The results obtained, this method can be applied to surface hardening of components that require high wear resistance such as gears, hot rolling mills, crankshafts, bearings, cylinder blocks, and others.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The study was carried out with partial financial support provided by the Dili Institute of Technology Timor Leste and Fundo de Desenvolvimento do Capital Humano (FDCH) Timor Leste. We also thank to Diponegoro University and Politeknik Manufacture Ceper for supporting the laboratory of testing.

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