

Exploring Experimentally Al₂O₃ Nanoparticles Impact on a Four-Stroke Diesel Engine's Performance and Emissions



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ABSTRACT

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This work demonstrates the enhancement of the performance of engine and emission features by introducing nanoparticles into gasoline. Aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) has been utilized as an additive to the fuel in a 4-stroke diesel engine with a single cylinder and compression ignition. Three different weight percentages of Al₂O₃ were evaluated (0.25% Al₂O₃-Di, 0.5% Al₂O₃-Di, and 0.75% Al₂O₃-Di.) compared with pure diesel fuel. The findings suggest that using nano-diesel and higher nanoparticles amount in diesel fuel contributed to enhancing engine performance. The engine brake thermal efficiency demonstrated a notable improvement, while the brake-specific fuel consumption (Bsfc) demonstrated a reduction of 3.4% compared with pure diesel fuel. Furthermore, the increase in (Al₂O₃) amount in diesel fuel causing a decrease in CO, HC, and NO_x releases by 13%, 16.9%, and 28.8%, respectively, compared with pure diesel fuel. Yet carbon dioxide emissions rose by 21.4% compared with those using pure diesel fuel. Furthermore, the findings revealed that nonfuel with 0.75% nanoparticles performs better than pure diesel fuel.

1. INTRODUCTION

A compression ignition engine is one of the most influential power systems for both fixed and mobile uses. Through strategies including fuel optimization, engine design changes, and exhaust gas treatment, several researchers have attempted to enhance the engines' performance while lowering releases. The best course of action is to modify engine combustion since this usually only calls for small changes to already-existing engine systems, as opposed to introducing new designs or extra parts [1, 2].

The increasing petroleum price, rising related air contamination, and the impacts of global warming have indeed renewed global efforts to explore alternative fuels for engines. Nano-diesels have been a significant focus of this search, and various types have been tested over the years for their potential as viable substitutes for petroleum-based fuels. Nano-fuel additives are one of the many options that have been thought to help resolve energy and environmental challenges. Nano-oxide additives such as Al₂O₃, TiO₂, CeO₂, Co₃O₄, and Fe₂O₃ were used to decrease exhaust releases and fuel consumption [3-5].

Including nanoparticles enhances the engine's performance because they increase thermal efficiency and decrease the amount of specific fuel used. The enhanced surface-to-volume proportion from the nanoparticles decreases pollutant amount and increases the reaction rate. This faster reaction is likely due to a shorter delay than pure diesel. Nano-diesel reduces

NO_x releases through various methods, such as emulsification, gas recirculation, nano-particle addition, and oxygen enrichment [6, 7].

Additives containing nanoparticles lower the cloud point temp, enhance engine cold-start efficiency in cold climates, and raise the surface-area-to-volume proportion. Causing micro-explosions that speed up mass transfer promotes faster and more effective combustion. Heating flow, thermal loading, and the temp of the components in the combustion chamber are all reduced when diesel is mixed with a nano-additive. The nano-additive alters the fuel's chemical makeup, which enhances emission features. Furthermore, even at low mass fractions (10 ppm), the enhanced broadness of the nano-additive enhances the combustion process [8-10].

Without negatively impacting fuel efficiency or power output, Nano-Al₂O₃ may lengthen the fuel penetration length, enhance flame and combustion efficiency, and lower pollutants from internal combustion engines. These nanoparticles' chemical and thermal features both help accelerate the combustion cycle. Furthermore, solubilized nanoparticles distribute fuel droplets uniformly during the combustion chamber [11-14].

Naturally, combustion parameters may impact noise and vibration levels, which are important factors in engine performance. By strengthening the fuel's features or encouraging enhanced atomization, adding nanoparticles to fuel mixes may increase combustion efficiency. This may thus result in less noise and vibration from the engine and better

engine functioning [15, 16].

The adding of Nano- Al_2O_3 to diesel fuel improves several performance metrics. Specifically, it enhances exhaust gas temperatures, increases thermal efficiency, and reduces specific fuel consumption. Furthermore, it decreases HC and CO releases, although it does result in a slight increase in NOx releases. Testing various dosages of Nano- Al_2O_3 in diesel-biodiesel blends reveals that an amount of 100 ppm significantly enhances performance comparison with diesel and biodiesel blends alone [17-29]. Bunyan and Hassan [20], along with Daud et al. [21], conducted studies aimed at improving engine emissions and performance using various types of additives in solid, liquid, and gaseous forms. Additives such as hydrogen, alcohol, and metal oxides have been shown to effectively enhance performance and reduce emissions. These studies also examined the effects of adding Nano- Al_2O_3 to diesel fuel on engine emissions and performance. Three concentrations of aluminum oxide (25 ppm, 50 ppm, and 100 ppm) were prepared. Adding Al_2O_3 to diesel fuel ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{DF}$) improves the fuel's physical properties.

The inclusion of Al_2O_3 reduces CO emissions by 20.5%, decreases NOx emissions by 12.2%, increases CO_2 emissions by approximately 2.27%, and lowers UHC emissions by about 13.5%. Ghanbari [22] investigated the impact of Nano- Al_2O_3 in diesel fuel on the performance and emission characteristics of a six-cylinder, four-stroke diesel engine. The study demonstrated that using nanoparticles and increasing their concentration in diesel fuel reduced CO and HC emissions by 13.1% and 23.4%, respectively, while increasing NOx and CO_2 emissions by 33.3% and 29.5%, respectively, compared to pure diesel fuel.

E et al. [23] explored the impact of using 75 ppm Nano- Al_2O_3 in a B20 diesel-biodiesel mixture on engine performance and exhaust emissions. The study revealed improvements, including a 9.3% increase in brake thermal efficiency and a 13.6% increase in the heat release rate. Additionally, BSFC (Brake Specific Fuel Consumption) was reduced by 16.6%.

Ozgun et al. [24] studied the optimal concentration of Nano- Al_2O_3 in a Jojoba biodiesel-diesel (JB20D) fuel blend. The use of Al_2O_3 improved engine performance, with optimal emission characteristics observed at a concentration of 20 mg/L. At this level, significant reductions in emissions were achieved: CO was reduced by 80%, NOx by 70%, smoke opacity by 35%, and UHC by 60%.

El-Seesy et al. [25] empirically investigated the effects of adding Nano- Al_2O_3 on the ignition characteristics of diesel fuel. The findings demonstrated significant improvements in the radiative and heat transfer properties of diesel fuel. Additionally, the likelihood of ignition on a hot plate increased markedly.

Tyagi et al. [26] examined the emission characteristics and performance of a diesel engine operating with diesel fuel

supplemented with iron and aluminum nanoparticles. The results showed a 4% increase in peak cylinder pressure and a 9% increase in brake thermal efficiency, while BSFC was reduced by 7%. Furthermore, CO and unburned hydrocarbon (UHC) emissions decreased by 8% and 40%, respectively.

Given the diverse applications of Nano- Al_2O_3 in diesel engines, this study aims to assess the impact of Nano- Al_2O_3 additives on diesel engine combustion performance and emission behaviors under constant load and variable speed conditions. Additionally, the study seeks to determine the extent to which different additive concentrations (0.25% Al_2O_3 -Di, 0.5% Al_2O_3 -Di, and 0.75% Al_2O_3 -Di) can enhance efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of diesel engines.

2. METHODOLOGY

The tests in this investigation were conducted in several phases, as outlined below:

1. Operating the engine exclusively with pure diesel.
2. Operating the engine with various mix proportions of diesel fuel and Aluminum Oxide Nano- Al_2O_3 , as described previously. Table 1 shows the thermal and physical characteristics of the nano-diesel blends: 0% Aluminum Oxide + 100% Diesel Fuel (Pure), 0.25% Aluminum Oxide + Diesel Fuel, 0.50% Aluminum Oxide + Diesel Fuel, and 0.75% Aluminum Oxide + Diesel Fuel.

All analyses were performed on a single-cylinder engine at speeds ranging from 1500 to 3500 RPM under a constant load.

2.1 Experimental setup

The experiments assessed the fuel's types impact on the performance and release of 4-stroke diesel engines at variable speeds and constant loads. All tests were conducted at the I.C.E. Laboratory of the Power Mechanics Engineering Faculty at Technical College Al-Mussaib (TCM), Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University (ATU), Kufa, Iraq. The experimental setup involved a single-cylinder, air-cooled diesel engine (model TD111), as demonstrated in Figure 1. This direct-injection diesel engine features a piston combustion chamber bowl. Table 2 demonstrates the key features of the engine utilized in this research. The tests have been conducted with four different fuels at a constant engine load.

2.2 Testing procedure

1. Begin by draining and flushing the fuel system before filling it with the desired fuel blend. Ensure any air bubbles in the system are removed.
2. Confirm that no residual fuel remains in the engine tank, as leftover fuel may influence the accuracy of the readings.

Table 1. Thermal physical characteristics of nano-diesel

Sample	Density (kg/m^3)	Dynamic Viscosity $\times 10^{-3}$ (kg/m.s)	Flashpoint & Firepoint OC	Calorific Magnitude kCal/kg	Cetane Number
Diesel pure	844.3	2.788	65-70	10941.08	51.8
D+0.25% Al_2O_3	846.8	2.878	72-76	10945.23	53.1
D+0.50% Al_2O_3	847.8	2.906	75-78	10948.33	54.1
D+0.75% Al_2O_3	850.3	2.966	77-79	10951.41	54.7

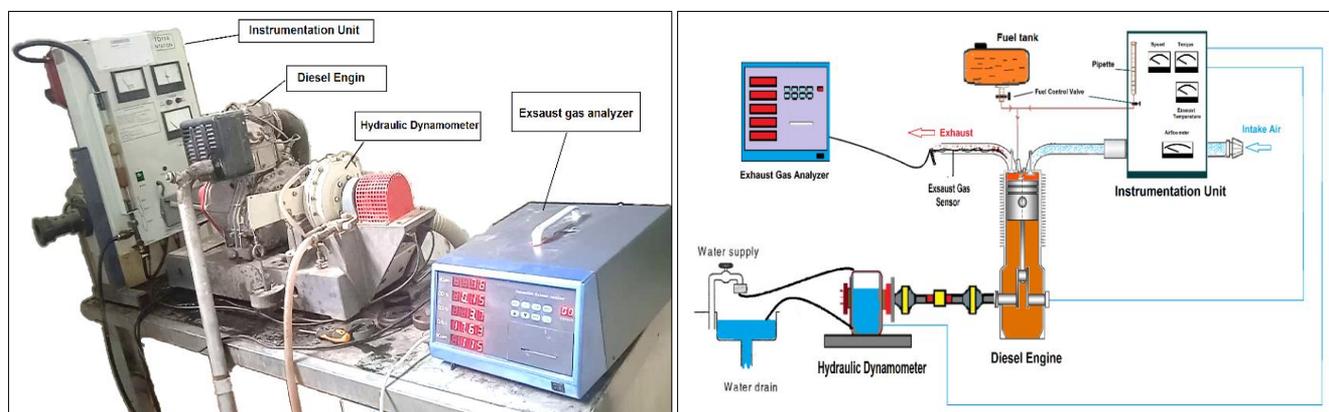


Figure 1. Diagram illustrating the experimental setup

Table 2. Engine specifications

Engine Parameters	Specification
Model	TD111
Manufacturer	TQ Education and Training Limited
General	Air-cooled, Variable speed, Compression ignition, four-stroke, and Single-cylinder
Fuel	Diesel
Bore	70 mm
Stroke	65 mm
Swept volume	250 cm ³
Maximum speed	4000 rpm
Weight	45 kg

3. Start the engine using pure diesel fuel and run it at five engine speeds (1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, and 3500 RPM) with a fixed engine torque of 5 N·m. At each speed, allow the engine to run for 3-5 minutes to achieve a stable operating condition.

4. Once a steady operating condition is reached, measure the fuel consumption rate by recording the time it takes the engine to consume 8 ml of fuel. Simultaneously, record exhaust emission data (HC, CO, CO₂, and NO_x) using an exhaust gas analyzer, ensuring that stable values are maintained.

5. Repeat steps 1-4 under the same operating conditions for each of the following fuel blends:

- 0.25% Al₂O₃-Diesel Fuel
- 0.50% Al₂O₃-Diesel Fuel
- 0.75% Al₂O₃-Diesel Fuel

2.3 Exhaust gas analyzer

This device is an essential tool for understanding and the emissions of an engine. The exhaust gas analyzer model HPC501 used to measure the concentration of various gases present in vehicle exhaust, including hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). This achieved by placing an exhaust gas sensor in the exhaust pipe, which allows for accurate and real-time measurements, by analyzing these gas concentrations.

2.4 Environmental factors

Environmental factors such as temperature and humidity affect combustion efficiency and emissions, while engine wear over time, which causes worn engine parts such as valves and piston rings, reduces performance and increases CO₂ emissions. The experimental errors, poor calibration of

inaccurate sensors can also, increase CO₂ and other emissions. The increase CO₂ emissions contribute to global warming, and the need for better maintenance, cleaner fuels, and advanced technologies to reduce the impact.

2.5 Preparation of neat diesel with nanoparticle Al₂O₃

In this study, the addition of Nano-Al₂O₃ with variations of 0.25%, 0.50%, and 0.75% with diesel fuel. As illustrated in Figure 2, the fuel and nanoparticles were blended with a magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes at a temperature ranging from 80°C-90°C. The fuel samples are used directly in the engine once the temperature has returned to room temperature. The specifications for the Nano-Al₂O₃ are detailed in Table 3.

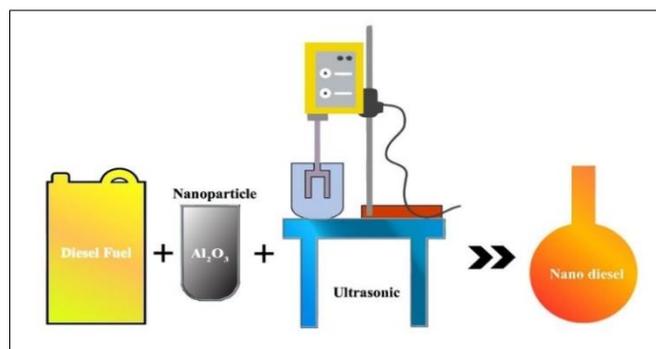


Figure 2. Diagram representing the experimental setup

Table 3. Properties of nanoparticles

Item	Specifications
Chemical name	Nano Aluminum Oxide, (Al ₂ O ₃ -Gamma) 99.9%, USA
Density	3.9 g/cm ³
Average particle size	20nm
Appearance	White Powder
Melting point	2045°C
Boling point	2980°C
BET surface area (SSA)	>150 m ² /g

During the experiments, glass cylinders were utilized with pure diesel and nano-diesel in varying proportions, as demonstrated in Figure 3: a- pure diesel, b- contains the diesel-nano- diesel mixture at the proportion of (0.25% Al₂O₃+ Di), c- contains (0.50% Al₂O₃+ Di), and d- (0.75% Al₂O₃+ Di).



Figure 3. a) Pure diesel; b) 0.25% Al₂O₃+Di; c) 0.50% Al₂O₃+Di; d) 0.75% Al₂O₃+Di

2.6 The performance characteristics

Mixing ratio (ϕ) specified as the proportion of the size of nanoparticles to the total size of nanoparticles with the volume of fuel (v_f) [27].

$$\phi = \frac{V_{np}}{V_{np} + V_f} \quad (1)$$

The power at the output shaft is referred to as the brake power, where τ =torque and N= speed engine rpm [27, 28].

$$Bp = \frac{2\pi N\tau}{60} \quad (2)$$

Braking-specific consumption of fuel (Bsfc) is the quotient obtained by dividing the mass flow rate (\dot{m}_f) of fuel by the brake pressurization (BP) [29].

$$Bsfc = \frac{\dot{m}_f}{Bp} \quad (3)$$

Brake thermal efficiency (η_{bth}) is the proportion of the energy contained in braking power divided by the energy of the propelling fuel [29, 30].

$$\eta_{bth} = \frac{BP}{\dot{m}_f \times Q_{HV}} \quad (4)$$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The objective of this work is to explore the influence of engine speed and fuel type as independent factors on emission and performance characteristics.

Figure 4 demonstrates the influence of diesel fuel nanoparticles on η_{Bth} at different speeds with constant load. It can be detected that η_{Bth} increased with the higher the nano amount in the diesel fuel. The highest thermal efficiency was recorded at an engine speed of 3500 rpm for (0.75% Al₂O₃ + Di) relative to pure diesel fuel.

Figure 5 illustrates the difference in (Bsfc) with engine speed and nano-diesel fuels under constant load conditions. With an increase in the nano amount of diesel fuel, the Bsfc of the engine reduces at all engine speeds. Incorporating Al₂O₃ into the diesel fuel results in a decrease in the Bsfc compared with pure diesel. The detected enhancement may be ascribed to the enhanced physical characteristics, namely the increased surface area-to-volume proportion of Nano-Al₂O₃ concerning

diesel fuel [30, 31]. Significantly, the combination of (0.75% Al₂O₃+ Di) yields the lowest Bsfc (Broad-Specific Fuel Compression) among all fuel kinds. The maximal reduction in Bsfc is reported as 3.4% for (Al₂O₃ 0.75%+Di) comparison with Pure diesel fuel.

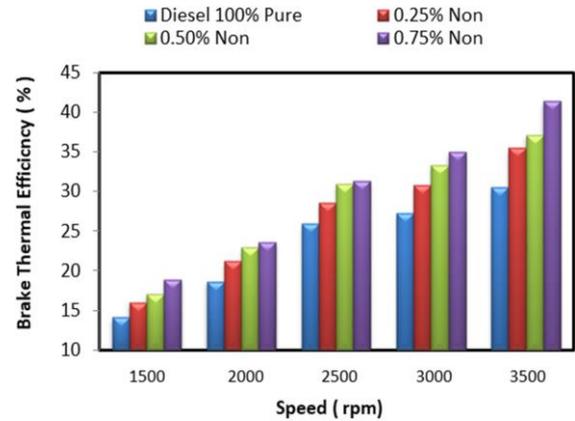


Figure 4. Relationship between η_{Bth} at various engine speeds and nano-diesel fuel mixes

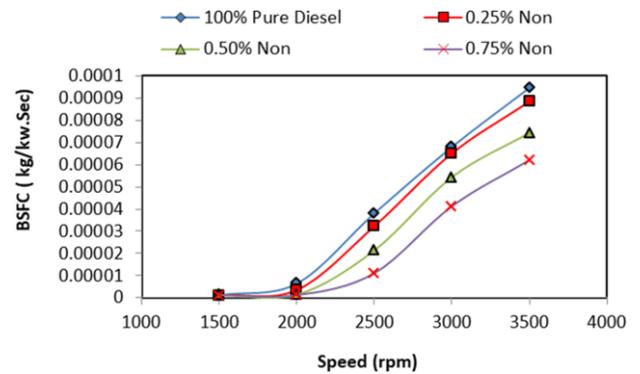


Figure 5. Relationship between Bsfc and different speeds

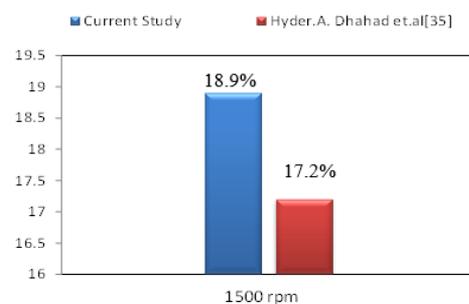


Figure 6. The comparison of brake thermal efficiency with the addition of Al₂O₃

Figure 6 presents a comparison of brake thermal efficiency observed in the current study with values reported in other literature [32], considering the addition of Al₂O₃ at an engine speed of 1500 rpm. The results indicate that the brake thermal efficiency obtained in this study is 8.99% higher compared to the previous research, as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 7 illustrates the correlation between the release of carbon monoxide (CO) at various amounts of Nano-Al₂O₃ in diesel fuel and the change in engine speed. Evidence indicates that the use of Nano-Al₂O₃ in diesel fuel leads to a reduction in CO releases. Compared with pure diesel fuel, the lowest reduction in CO releases is documented at 13% for (0.75% Al₂O₃+Di). This phenomenon is ascribed to the decrease in

ignition delay and the improvement of combustion performance as the amount of (Al₂O₃) in the diesel fuel increases [33, 34].

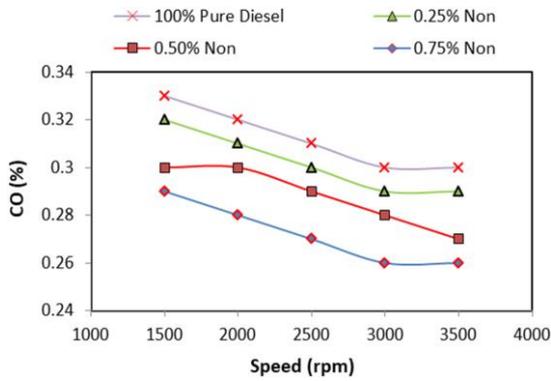


Figure 7. Relationship between Carbon monoxide (CO) and different speeds

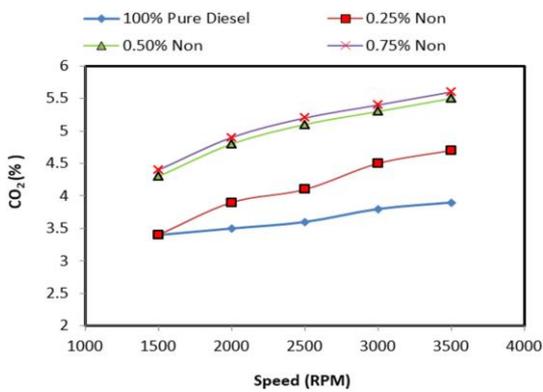


Figure 8. CO₂ at various engine speeds and nano-diesel fuel mixes

Figure 8 illustrates that CO₂ releases vary with engine speed and nano-diesel blends. CO₂ amount increases as the nanoparticle amount increases. It reveals that the addition of (0.75% Al₂O₃) demonstrates the highest increase of 30% in CO₂ values at ultimate speed comparison with pure diesel; the rise in CO₂ amount is attributed to the increased fuel oxygen resulting from higher Al₂O₃ amounts, which improves of combustion [35].

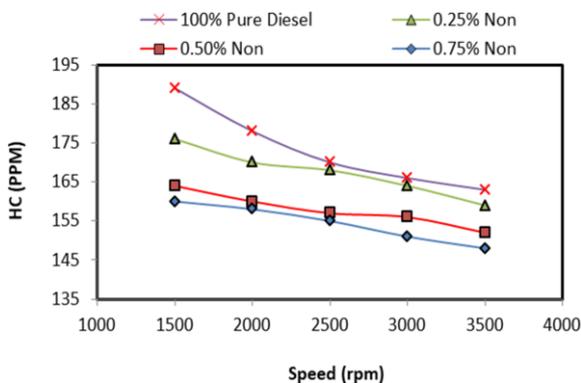


Figure 9. HC at various engine speeds and nano-diesel fuel mixes

Figure 9 demonstrates the relation between HC releases at various amounts of Nano-Al₂O₃ in diesel fuel with engine

speed variation. The unburnt (HC) measurement reflects incomplete fuel combustion during the combustion stages. An inverse relationship exists between nanoparticle amount and HC amount. This phenomenon may be ascribed to the decrease in the carbon temperature of activation, which augments combustion as the amount of nanoparticles increases [36].

Figure 10 demonstrates the relation between NO_x releases at various amounts of Al₂O₃ in diesel fuel and engine speed variation at constant load. It reveals that the addition of (0.25% Al₂O₃) demonstrates the highest reduction of 12.6% in NO_x value at lower speed comparison with pure diesel, due to ignition delay reductions causing decreases in adiabatic flare temps, early combustion, and consequently NO_x releases [37].

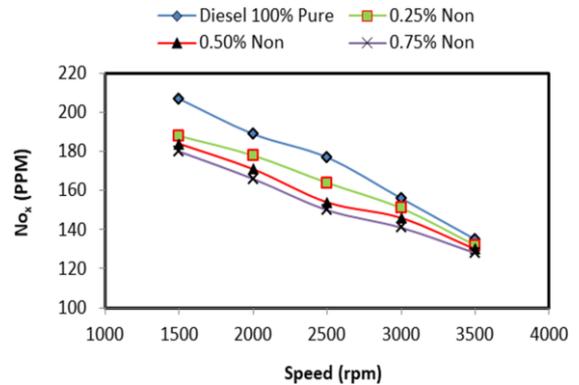


Figure 10. Relationship between Nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and different speeds

4. CONCLUSIONS

The impacts of Al₂O₃ nanoparticles added to diesel fuel on engine releases and performance. The investigation detected better stability with the nano-diesel blend. The conclusions are as follows.

1. The brake thermal efficiency (η_{Bth}) increases with higher proportions of Al₂O₃ -diesel fuel blends. The maximum efficiency was observed at a 0.75% Al₂O₃-diesel blend at an engine speed of 3500 rpm.
2. Adding Al₂O₃ illustrates the highest reduction of 3.4% in (Bsf_c) detected at an engine speed of 3500 rpm and (0.75% Al₂O₃+Di) mix comparison with neat diesel.
3. Increasing the concentration of Al₂O₃ nano-particles (0.25% to 0.75% by weight) under a constant load and speeds varying effectively reduces HC, NO_x, and CO emissions.
4. The CO₂ release rises with the increase in the proportion of nano-diesel blend fuel.

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NOMENCLATURE

η_{Bth}	Brake thermal efficiency, %
BP	Brake power, Kw
QHv	Higher heat value, kj/kg
m _f	Mass fuel rate, Kg/sec
Bsfc	Brake specific fuel consumption, kg/kw.sec
CO	Carbon monoxide, %
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide, %
HC	Hydrocarbon, ppm
NO _x	Nitrogen oxides, ppm
Di	Diesel fuel
Al ₂ O ₃	Aluminum oxide
CO ₃ O ₄	Cobalt oxide
FeO ₃	Iron oxide
TiO ₂	Titanium dioxide
CeO ₃	Cerium oxide