

# INVESTIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CUTTING PARAMETERS ON THE BUILT-UP-LAYER AND BUILT-UP-EDGE FORMATION DURING THE MACHINING OF AISI 310 AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEELS

## PREISKAVA VPLIVOV PARAMETROV REZANJA NA NASTANEK NAKOPIČENE PLASTI IN NAKOPIČENEGA ROBA MED STRUŽENJEM AVSTENITNEGA NERJAVNEGA JEKLA AISI 310

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This study experimentally investigated the effects of machining parameters on the built-up-layer (BUL) and built-up-edge (BUE) formation and the wear behavior of cutting tools during the machining of the AISI 310 austenitic stainless steel with titanium-carbide cutting tools. Five different cutting speeds (50, 75, 100, 125 and 150) m/min, three feed rates (0.15, 0.20 and 0.25) mm/r and two cutting depths (1.5, 2) mm were used as the cutting parameters. The highest accumulation of the BUL and the BUE was observed at a cutting speed of 50 m/min, a feed rate of 0.15 mm/r and a cutting depth of 1.5 mm.

Keywords: built-up edge, built-up layer, machining, stainless steels

Ta študija eksperimentalno preučuje vpliv parametrov rezanja na nakopičeno plast (BUL) in nakopičen rob (BUE) ter na vedenje orodja za odrezovanje med struženjem AISI 310 avstenitnega nerjavnega jekla z orodjem iz titanovega karbida. Kot parametri odrezovanja je bilo uporabljeno pet različnih hitrosti (50, 75, 100, 125 in 150) m/min, tri hitrosti podajanja (0,15, 0,20 in 0,25) mm/r in dve globini rezanja 1,5 mm in 2 mm. Največja akumulacija BUL in BUE je bila opažena pri hitrosti rezanja 50 m/min, hitrosti podajanja 0,15 mm/r in globini rezanja 1,5 mm.

Ključne besede: nakopičen rob, nakopičena plast, strojna obdelava, nerjavna jekla

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In the machining process, workpiece materials may adhere to the cutting tool in two ways during the cutting. First, the workpiece becomes welded to the cutting edge, leading to the formation of what is known as a built-up edge (BUE). Second, workpiece materials may distribute and accumulate over a large portion of the cutting tool's rake face, leading to the formation of what is known as a built-up layer (BUL). These situations may arise separately on a cutting edge, or may occur simultaneously.

AISI 310 stainless steels are materials that are commonly used in the manufacturing industry despite their characteristically poor machinability. The most significant machinability problems of stainless steels are the tool smearing and the BUE formation.

Carrilero and Marcos<sup>1</sup> observed that the tool wear occurs due to a combination of load factors affecting the cutting edge (mechanical, thermal, chemical, abrasive factors). Individually, each load factor can be effective at a certain stage of the tool wear. Generally, the loads do not act separately and as the machining process continues the combined effect of the loads increases gradually.

Carrilero et al.<sup>2</sup> suggested that, in machining, the tool wear generally determines the tool life, along with the

criteria such as the cutting strength or the surface roughness that vary in relation to the cutting parameters.

Korkut et al.<sup>3</sup> observed that the cutting-tool wear occurs at a faster rate during the machining of stainless steel. By increasing the wear of the cutting edges, a BUE leads to a poor surface finish on a workpiece. While warm chips are led away from the workpiece, they form a continuous wire that wears the cutter and adversely affects the surface of the workpiece. To prevent this, the operator must clean the chips from each machined workpiece, which, in turn, hampers the productivity.

Sanchez et al.<sup>4</sup> found that certain temperatures, depending on the cutting parameters, might be generated during the machining processes, increasing the occurrence of wear mechanisms (adhesion, oxidation, fatigue, abrasion, diffusion). They also suggested that facilitating the ability of tools to cut within a reasonable period of time is one of the most important topics that should be investigated in the studies conducted on the cutting tool wear.

List et al.<sup>5</sup> searched the wear behavior in the machining of an aluminum-copper alloy (2024). They suggested that under low cutting conditions, built-up edges form on the tool's rake face and take on the function of the cutting edge. They observed that the continuous sliding

of BUE fragments between the tool and chips increases the tool wear. They also suggest the use of a large rake angle and a polished tool surface at a low cutting speed as the adhesion mechanism is more mechanical than physical.

Rubio et al.<sup>6</sup> studied the surface roughness ( $R_a$ ) of an AA7050 alloy. They observed that the  $R_a$  value of the AA7050 aluminum pieces obtained through the turning process had a certain tendency to decrease with the machined length. They also observed that  $R_a$  values slightly increase with the cutting speed. They suggested taking into account that parts of the machined material adhere to the tool on the edge (BUE) and on the rake face (BUL) during the cutting process.

In addition to the mechanical properties of a material, Özçatalbaş and Aydın<sup>7</sup> discovered that the machining parameters such as the cutting speed, the feed rate, the cutting depth and the cutting-edge geometry are also important to ensure a proper cut.

Gökkaya and Nalbant<sup>8</sup> investigated the effects of different cutting speeds, built-up layers and built-up edges on aluminum machining. They suggested that increasing the cutting speed decreased BUL and BUE formations, but did not eliminate them entirely.

Liew and Ding<sup>9</sup> investigated the wear progression in the low-speed end milling of stainless steel. They observed that a strong bonding between an adherent work material and a tool surface can result in the formation of a BUE. When the BUE and the adherent work material on the tool become unstable, they adhere to the underside of the work piece, resulting in a deterioration of the surface finish.

Katuku et al.<sup>10</sup> investigated the wear, cutting forces and chip characteristics of austempered ductile iron under finishing conditions. Using cutting speeds ranging from 50 m/min to 800 m/min, they observed that, at cutting speeds lower than 150 m/min, the abrasion wear was the main wear mechanism. They suggested that, at these cutting speeds, the fragmentation of chips and the instability of the BUE controlled the dynamic cutting forces.

Thakur et al.<sup>11</sup> studied the machinability of Inconel 718 during high-speed turning. They used cutting speeds within the range of 40–60 m/min; however, the BUE formation was not observed at the aforementioned machining parameters.

Chattopadhyay et al.<sup>12</sup> studied the wettability and machinability of pure aluminum for uncoated and coated carbide cutting-tool inserts. They observed that a large built-up edge was formed on the uncoated and all the coated carbide inserts, excluding diamond. They concluded that the flank-wear measurement confirms that the diamond-coated tool is superior.

Neugebauer et al.<sup>13</sup> investigated the velocity effects in metal forming and machining processes. They suggested that the adherent material may, assuming a low cutting velocity, form built-up edges, while at high speeds, a thin

flow layer with extremely high shear deformations tends to develop.

Zhou et al.<sup>14</sup> investigated the surface damage in the high-speed turning of Inconel 718. They found that, at a low feed rate, the tendency to form built-up edges is also higher than at a higher feed rate, due to an increase in the size of the plastic-deformation area at the interface of the tool and the workpiece.

Khan et al.<sup>15</sup> investigated the tool wear/life in the finish turning of Inconel 718. They found that, at the lowest cutting speed (150 m/min), a severe grooving and a built-up-edge (BUE) formation were observed on the wear-scar micrographs in all the experiments. They observed that as the cutting speed increased to 300 m/min, the presence of the grooving and BUE diminished.

Gomez-Parra et al.<sup>16</sup> investigated the built-up-edge and built-up-layer formations in the turning of aluminum alloys. They suggested that the changes in the BUL and BUE took place and the formation mechanisms were related to the changes observed in the roughness profile of the machined pieces and evaluated through the average surface roughness,  $R_a$ . They confirmed that the BUE growth is responsible for a decrease in  $R_a$ ; this is due to the fact that a higher BUE thickness can be related to a lower value of the tool-position angle and, thus, to a lower value of the maximum height of the cutting finger on the workpiece surface.

In this study, the machining of the AISI 310 austenitic stainless-steel material, i.e., the CNC turning machining under dry conditions was performed using a titanium-carbide cutting tool at five different cutting speeds, three different feed rates and two different cutting depths (1.5 mm, 2 mm) as the cutting parameters. The aim for this study was to establish the ideal cutting-condition parameters by determining the wear tendencies of the cutting edge and the effects of the cutting speed, the feed rate, and the cutting depth on the built-up-layer and built-up-edge formations with the aid of a scanning electron microscope (SEM).

## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

A spectral analysis of the AISI 310 stainless-steel material used in the experiments was performed using a 11814/00 optic emission spectrophotometer. The chemical composition of the test samples is indicated in **Table 1**.

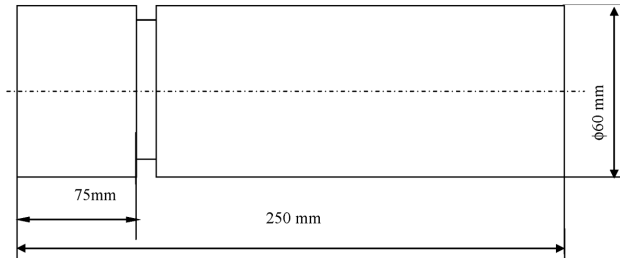
All the test samples were extracted by cutting a single-sized part so that they all consisted of the same crucible material. Thus, it was ensured that the test samples had the same physical and chemical characteristics. The sample dimensions used in the tests are shown in **Figure 1**.

During the study, the cutting parameters indicated in **Table 2** were applied to the test samples listed in **Table 1**. Throughout the experiments, a TC 35 Johnford CNC turning machine with a Fanuc control unit was used according to the parameters indicated in **Table 2**. The

**Table 1:** Chemical composition of AISI 310 austenitic stainless steel (w/%)

**Tabela 1:** Kemijska sestava AISI 310 avstenitnega nerjavnega jekla (w/%)

C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Mo	Ni
< 0.0050	0.3885	2.173	> 0.0960	0.0344	17.67	0.2983	14.71
Al	Cu	Nb	Ti	V	Fe		
0.0145	0.0806	< 0.0050	< 0.0010	0.0457	61.70		



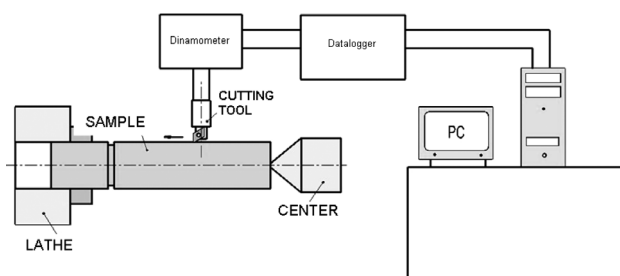
**Figure 1:** Dimensions of the samples used in the experiments

**Slika 1:** Dimenzije vzorcev, uporabljenih pri preizkusih

attachment of the test samples to the turning machine and their machining are schematically represented in **Figure 2**.

Due to dry cutting being recommended by a cutter's catalogue, the cutting fluid was not used during the machining of the test samples. A titanium-carbide-covered SNMG 120408-MS US735-shaped cutting edge, with an ISO M30 certification, recommended for austenitic stainless steel by the Mitsubishi company, a cutting-tool manufacturer, was used, along with its matching SSBCR112525 tool holder, for the machining of the test samples. The choice of the cutting parameters to be used during the tests was determined by taking into consideration the manufacturing company's data, prepared according to ISO 3685. These cutting parameters are listed in **Table 2**. Different machining parameters such as the cutting speed in addition to the feed rate and the cutting depth were used for each sample.

The optimum cutting speeds were 80–120 m/min for the chosen cutting edge. To observe the results obtained with the cutting speeds below and above the recommended cutting speed, cutting speeds of 50–150 m/min were also included in the tests. The feed rate and the cutting depth suitable for a radius 0.8 mm cutting-tool



**Figure 2:** Attachment of the test samples and measurement of cutting forces

**Slika 2:** Namestitvev preizkusnih vzorcev in merjenje sil pri rezanju

edge were determined based on the ISO 3685 reference values.

To determine the wear tendency of the cutting edge resulting from the machining performed with different cutting parameters, a different cutting edge was used for each test. Thus, an attempt was made to elucidate the contribution of each parameter to the built-up-layer and built-up-edge formations.

**Table 2:** Cutting parameters used in machining experiments

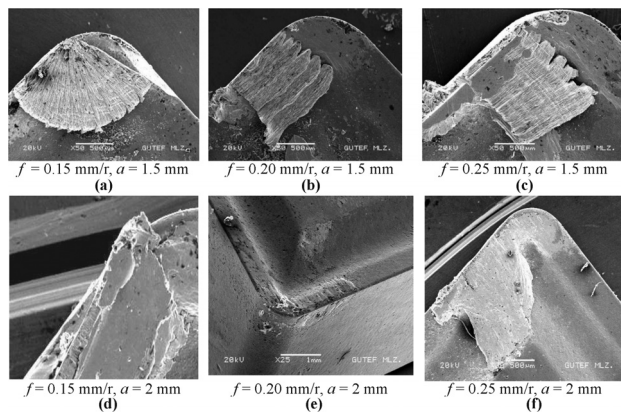
**Tabela 2:** Parametri rezanja pri preizkusih strojne obdelave

Experiment No.	V/ (m/min)	f/ (mm/r)	a/mm	Experiment No.	V/ (m/min)	f/ (mm/r)	a/mm
1	50	0.15	1.5	16	50	0.15	2
2	75			17	75		
3	100			18	100		
4	125			19	125		
5	150			20	150		
6	50	0.20	1.5	21	50	0.20	2
7	75			22	75		
8	100			23	100		
9	125			24	125		
10	150			25	150		
11	50	0.25	1.5	26	50	0.25	2
12	75			27	75		
13	100			28	100		
14	125			29	125		
15	150			30	150		

To determine the cutting forces involved in the chip formation during the machining performed with the CNC turning machine, a KISTLER 9257B piezoelectric-crystal-based dynamometer was used. To assess the wear rate, the wear and the smearing behavior of the cutting edges were examined using the JEOL JSM 6060 LV scanning electron microscope (SEM).

### 3 DISCUSSION

In this study, machining was performed at five different cutting speeds, three different feed rates and two different cutting depths using a titanium-carbide-covered tool. The analysis of the cutting edges with scanning microscopy revealed that the highest BUE formation occurred on the samples machined at lower cutting speeds. Hence, despite the use of different cutting parameters, the SEM images obtained for a cutting speed of 50 m/min and with the highest amounts of the built-up edge and built-up layer were evaluated. The scanning-electron-microscopy images of the BUE formed on the

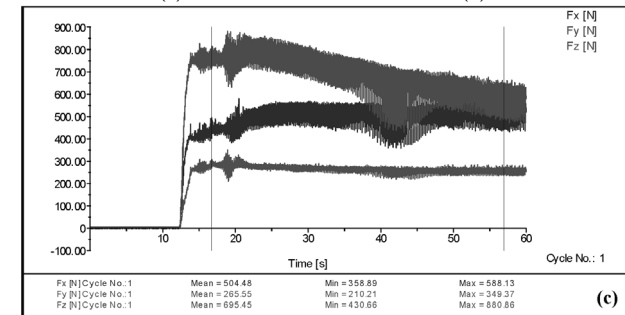
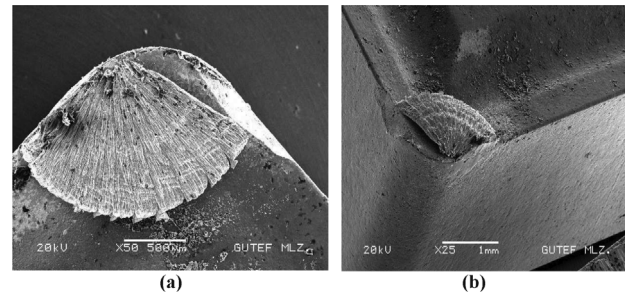


**Figure 3:** SEM images of BUE and BUL formed on the radius of the cutting tool used for the experimental sample at a cutting speed 50 m/min

**Slika 3:** SEM-posnetki BUE in BUL, ki nastajajo na radiusu rezilnega orodja, uporabljenega pri vzorcu, s hitrostjo rezanja 50 m/min

cutting edge with the test samples machined at the cutting speed 50 m/min are provided in **Figure 3**. A uniformly distributed BUE can be seen in **Figure 3**, while a non-uniformly distributed BUE can be seen in other figures.

It is possible to claim that within the experimental ranges, the feed rate and cutting depth were not as signi-



**Figure 4:** a), b) SEM images and c) a cutting-force diagram of the cutting tool under the machining conditions of 50 m/min cutting speed, 0.15 mm/r feed rate and 1.5 mm cut depth

**Slika 4:** a), b) SEM-posnetka in c) diagram sile rezanja rezilnega orodja pri strojni obdelavi: hitrost rezanja 50 m/min, hitrost podajanja 0,15 mm/r in globina rezanja 1,5 mm

**Table 3:** Wear of the cutting edges used in the experiments

**Tabela 3:** Obraba rezilnih robov pri preizkusih

Experiment No	V/ (m/min)	f/ (mm/r)	a/ mm	Evaluation	Experiment No	V/ (m/min)	f/ (mm/r)	a/ mm	Evaluation
1	50	0.15	1.5	There is a smooth BUE at the edge	16	50	0.15	2	There is a notch at the cutting edge because of the BUE
2	75			There is very little wear at the edge	17	75			The edge is clean
3	100			The edge is clean; there is very little accumulation at the far end	18	100			The edge is clean, there is a crush inside
4	125			The edge is clean	19	125			The edge is clean, there is a little accumulation inside
5	150			There is a little notch at the edge	20	150			The edge is clean
6	50	0.20	1.5	There is a BUE	21	50	0.20	2	There is crater erosion at the edge; there is a crush inside
7	75			There is a notch at the far end	22	75			There is notching at the side surface; there is a crush inside
8	100			There is very little BUE at the side surface	23	100			The edge is clean; there are residues
9	125			The edge is clean	24	125			There are notches at the edge and side surface
10	150			The edge is clean	25	150			The edge is clean
11	50	0.25	1.5	Plenty of BUE; there is a notch at the far end	26	50	0.25	2	There is an accumulation at the side surface
12	75			There is a little BUE at the side surface	27	75			The edge is clean; there is a crush inside
13	100			There is some BUE at the side surface	28	100			The edge is clean; there is a crush inside
14	125			There is a BUE line at the far end	29	125			The edge is clean; there is a crush inside
15	150			The edge is clean	30	150			The edge is clean; there is a crush inside



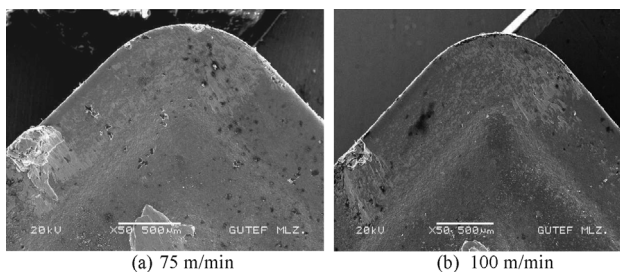
ificant as the cutting speed for the formation of the built-up edge and built-up layer. However, when the images in **Figure 3** are examined, it can be seen that the feed rate and the cutting depth also had a slight effect on the BUE and BUL, in addition to the cutting speed. It can be stated that increasing the cutting depth may slightly increase the BUE and BUL, while increasing the feed rate may lead to a slight decrease in the BUE and BUL.

The SEM images of the formations observed on the cutting tool under the machining conditions of the cutting speed 50 m/min, feed rate 0.15 mm/r, and cutting depth 1.5 mm are provided in **Figure 4**. As can be seen in **Figure 4**, if a built-up layer forms on the rake face of the cutting tool, the built-up edge forms uniformly along the main cutting edge and the tool-nose radius progresses towards the cutting tool's rake face. It was noted that the cutting forces increased when the BUE also increased. This is demonstrated in a two-dimensional image shown as **Figure 4a** and a three-dimensional image of **Figure 4b**. The cutting-force diagram is given in **Figure 4c**.

The images obtained with scanning electron microscopy for the other cutting edges used in the machining of the test samples are not provided. Instead, an evaluation of all the cutting parameters of the cutting edges is provided in **Table 3**. When the results obtained with the SEM for the cutting edges used during the test are examined, a decrease in the cutting-tool wear corresponding to a decrease in the smearing tendency is observed, as seen in **Figures 5** and **6**. In relation to the decrease in the smearing tendency, a decrease in the cutting-tool wear can also be observed when **Figures 5** and **6** are examined. In the tests conducted with the cutting speed of 50 m/min, the feed rate of 0.15 mm/r and the cutting depth of 1.5 mm, the wear of the cutting tool was observed to decrease as the cutting speed increased, despite the presence of a notch in the cutting edge.

In **Figure 5**, it is possible to see the traces of the built-up-layer and built-up-edge formations on the cutting tool after the machining at 75–100 m/min.

In **Figure 6**, the built-up layer can be observed once again on the rake face of the cutting tool. On the other



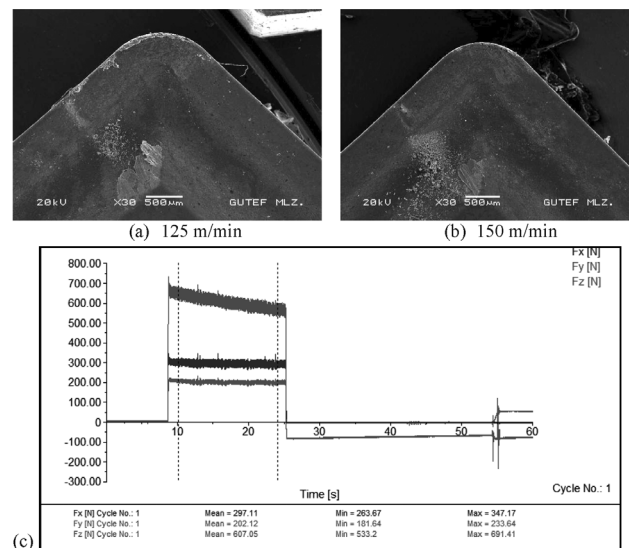
**Figure 5:** Cutting-edge radius used for the test samples machined at cutting speeds of: a) 75 m/min and b) 100 m/min

**Slika 5:** Radius rezilnega roba pri vzorcu, obdelanem s hitrostjo rezanja: a) 75 m/min in b) 100 m/min

hand, a built-up edge formed on the main cutting edge. At cutting speeds of 125 m/min and 150 m/min, smaller built-up layers and built-up edges formed. However, the built-up edge extended to the cutting tool's rake face due to an accumulation. A decrease in the BUE, corresponding to a decrease in the cutting strength, can be seen in **Figure 6c**.

It was observed that the cutting condition affected the formation of the built-up layer and built-up edge. The built-up-layer and built-up-edge thicknesses were observed to be on an increase up to the critical level as long as the machining was performed. Following this increase, the built-up edge was identified as being plastically deformed and extending towards the cutting-tool surface. For this reason, the previous built-up layer was covered and remained below the new layer. The built-up-layer and built-up-edge formations disrupt the geometry of the cutting tool. Disrupting the tool geometry and efficiency causes a workpiece to have a rough surface and reduced efficiency. The lowest surface quality was achieved with the cutting speed of 50 m/min, the 0.25 mm/d feed rate, and the cutting depth of 2 mm, which resulted in a surface-roughness value ( $R_a$ ) of 5.75  $\mu\text{m}$ . The formation of a BUE, particularly on the chip roots, contributed to the increase in the surface roughness.

In the assessments that were performed, the sizes of the built-up layer and built-up edge formed at the cutting speed of 50 m/min were observed as being larger than the built-up layer and built-up edge formed at the cutting speed of 150 m/min. At the 150 m/min cutting speed, no built-up edge was identified in the environs of the tool-nose radius that extended towards the rake face. This



**Figure 6:** Cutting-edge radius used for the test samples machined at cutting speeds of: a) 125 m/min, b) 150 m/min and c) cutting-force diagram

**Slika 6:** Uporabljeni radij rezilnega orodja pri obdelavi vzorca s hitrostjo rezanja: a) 125 m/min, b) 150 m/min in c) diagram sile rezanja

situation demonstrated that the cutting speed is an important parameter for the formation of a built-up edge.

The causes of this decrease can be explained with the effects of the factors such as the ease of deformation processes associated with the increasing temperatures at high cutting speeds, the ease of deformation of the workpiece material around the cutting edge and tool-nose radius, and the plastic flow formed at high temperatures.

The temperatures generated by the increase in the cutting speed result in soft layers that create a plastic flow. This, in turn, prevents the formation of built-up layers and built-up edges. Based on the observations from the experiments performed, it can be stated that cutting speeds above 100 m/min are necessary to prevent the formation of built-up layers and built-up edges.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

Cutting tools were examined under a SEM to determine the effects of machining parameters on the formation of built-up layers and built-up edges on the cutting-tool surfaces during machining processes. The results obtained within the experimental ranges are provided below:

- The effects of the feed rate and cutting depth on the formation of built-up edges and built-up layers were not as significant as the effect of the cutting speed.
- built-up edge formed on the main cutting edge of the cutting tool.
- The built-up-edge formation along the main cutting edge of the cutting tool did not affect the characteristics of the main cutting edge.
- The wear of the cutting tools was observed mainly at low cutting speeds, particularly at 50 m/min. It is possible to claim that an increasing cutting speed leads to a decrease in the cutting wear.
- A built-up layer formed on the rake face of the cutting tool.
- A built-up edge formed at a low cutting speed of 50 m/min was observed to progress from the environs of the tool-nose radius towards the surface of the rake face.
- In the machining of the AISI 310 austenitic stainless steel, the built-up-layer and built-up-edge formations decreased as the tested cutting speeds increased. However, higher speeds could not entirely prevent the formations of built-up layers and built-up edges.
- It can be asserted that, during the machining of the AISI 310 austenitic stainless steel with titanium-carbide cutting tools, cutting speeds higher than 100 m/min are necessary to prevent the built-up-layer and built-up-edge formations, as well as the cutting-tool wear.

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