

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the topics such as the background, problem, objective, hypothesis, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follow.

A. Background of the Study

English is the first foreign language taught in Indonesia. It also taught in the junior high school level. English is a compulsory subject that can be done in the school and outside of the school. Indeed, English has a function as self development means to acquire the knowledge, so that the students are growing up to be smart citizen and having skill in English. Getting good English achievement is very important for students in order to graduate from school and the most important thing is to face globalization era because in globalization era they must be competent if they would not be left by others. Many ways are done in order to reach that goal effectively and effeciently. Various strategies of teaching can done by the teacher, for example, the teachers manage the students seating arrangement in learning a certain subject.

As facilitator, the teacher has an important role in teaching and learning process, especially for teacher who teaches in junior high school. The teacher does not only need a good academic quality, but also strategies on how to make the process of teaching and learning interestingly and comfortably. The point is to

make students understand the message and the materials that have been given by the teacher. To be a good teacher is not only having instructional skill and systematic evaluation, but also having the way to manage the classroom well.

Classroom management is the term we will use to highlight the positive behaviors and decisions the teacher makes to facilitate the learning process. Indeed, all necessary activities to create and maintain an orderly learning environment. Therefore, having sensitivity about the condition of the classroom is a demand for the teacher, so the teacher can handle the teaching and learning process more comfortably.¹

According to Santrock, in classroom in which seats are organized in rows, the teacher prefers to interact with the students who sit in the front and center of the classroom. This area has been called the “action zone” because students in front and center position more interact with the teacher , such as often ask question to teacher and initiate to discussion. On the other hand, students who sit at the back row of the classroom usually have less attention to the teacher’s explanation than those in the front and center side.² Because of that condition, the students who sit in front and center are usually get high achievement and the students who sit at the back row usually get low achievement or low students, so that the seating arrangement of students must be made as effective as possible.

¹ Richard D. Parsons, et al., *Educational Psychology: A practitioner-Researcher Model of Teaching*, (Wadsworth: Thomson Learning, 2001), 352

John W. Santrock, *Educational Psychology*, (New York : McMillan Publishing Company, 2006), 456

In Junior High School, almost all the time of teaching and learning process is spent out inside the classroom. Moreover, in SMPN I Plemahan Kediri, the students get the same seating arrangement during their study. Besides, they use a traditional seating arrangement. For example, the students who sit in the front, they will not move to another position. Therefore, the teacher should have initiatives to make the students feel more comfortable so that they can get good English achievement.

For this research, the researcher chooses SMPN I Plemahan Kediri to be researched. This school is one of the favorite junior high school in Plemahan area because of its complete facilities. Besides, based on the observation of the researcher, this school gets many awards and is often visited by other junior high schools in relation to its development system. This school is also categorized as standardized national school.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher would like to do a research in the differences between students who sit in the front and the back row in English achievement at the grade eight of SMPN I Plemahan Kediri.

B. Problem of the Study

This study will try to find out the answer to the following question:

Are there any significant differences between students' score who sit in the front and the back row in English achievement at the grade eight of SMPN 1 Plemahan Kediri?

3. English Department lectures, it is expected to give information about the effectiveness of students' seating arrangement.
4. English Departments students, it is hoped to give information of the students' seating arrangement and it will be useful since they will be an English teacher.

F. Scope and Limitation

This scope of this study is about the differences between students who sit in the front and the back row of SMPN I Plemahan Kediri. Meanwhile, this study is limited on the students of the grade eight of SMPN I Plemahan Kediri in the 2010-2011 academic years.

G. The definition of Key Terms

1. The differences : the condition, quality, or fact of being different, or not same in quality or in essence; dissimilarity, distinction, diversity; the relation of non-agreement or non-identity between two or more things.³

Difference is that by which one thing differs from another; that which distinguishes or causes to differ; mark of distinction; characteristic quality; specific attribute.⁴

2. Seating arrangement : the way of organizing classroom desks and chairs or other furniture to make easier the interaction in the class.
3. Front row : the seats in the front and center of row arrangement.⁵

³ Department of Oxford, *The Compact Edition of The Oxford English Dictionary*, (United States of America: Oxford University Press, 1971), vol. 1, p. 722

⁴ Brainyquote. "Definition of Difference", (<http://www.brainyquote.com>, assessed on July 20, 2011)

