#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

#### A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The appropriate seating arrangement in the classroom interaction is one of the successful indicators in teaching and learning. It means seating arrangements take one of big role in classroom arrangement. However, the effect of seating position on learning process only has received little attention in education literature. Teacher should give greatest concern on discipline, class control, classroom management, and others keeping order in the classroom. This is one of the reasons why teachers should determine the seating arrangements for their students. "The teacher should know each student on a personal basis (i.e. name, interests, strength, weaknesses, etc.)". Moreover, knowing their students inside out and their behavioral patterns, it is based on what Kounin said that "the teacher should know at once where that student should be seated". In every classroom, a teacher should always discover different characteristics of students such as the special attention, talkative, inquisitive, slow learners, lack discipline, etc. Those who lack

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jeremy Harmer, *How to Teach English* (Edinburgh Gate: Pearson Education Limited, 2007), 15-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Weinstein, C.S. The physical environment of the school: A review of the research. *Review of Educational Research* 49 (4):577–610. (1979).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Dr. Amarjit Singh. *Classroom Management:* A Reflective Perspective. India: Kanishka Publishers. P.13. (2000).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Kounin, J. *Discipline and group management in classrooms*. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company. (1977).

discipline tend to distract others; therefore the teacher should keep a watchful eye out and approach them as soon as they display any type of unruliness or disgracious behavior.

A student's position in the classroom is related to the number of questions received from the teacher, this may influence the student's opportunity to respond and thus learn.<sup>5</sup> It shows that seating location can give a great impact on students' performance, behavior and attention span. Generally, students who seat at the back of the classroom tend to interact with each other more than those seated at the front, potentially adversely impacting their attention to the task at hand.<sup>6</sup> From my experience as a student, students who sit at the back tend to enjoy their own world. For each lesson taught to be beneficial to each student, the teacher would distinguish what is best for them and decide on where he or she should be seated.

Depending on where a student sits in class can make a major impact in their performance. Students who sit in the first row have a definite advantage.<sup>7</sup> As Granstrom explains about seating at the back, it can be inferred that students in the back seats can be easily distracted especially the childhood-adolescence group. Some students left at the back of the class will feel ignored, discouraged and less recognized instead of being motivated to work.

.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Moore, D. W. and Glynn, T. Variations in question rate as a function of position in the classroom. Educational Psychology, 4, 3,233–248. (1984).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Granstrom, K. Private communication between students in the classroom in relation to different classroom features. Educational Psychology, 16, 4, 349–364. (1996).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Dr. Paul Adams, vice president for student affairs at Wilkes University, Pa. the benefits of front-row seating. Creators.com

Griffith determined that the front and centre seats of the room were the best places to perform well. Seating arrangements are important classroom setting events, because they have the potential to prevent problem behaviors that decrease student's attention and diminish available instructional time. Those statement shows that seating arrangements is useful to manage classroom environment and avoid problems which can disturb classroom activity. Where students sit in the classroom, has the potential to encourage desirable behavior or contribute to students' misbehavior. Classroom arrangement significantly impacts on students' behavior, academic performance and achievements. Unfortunately, Cooper said in his study that numerous studies have indicated that considering effective classroom management as well as seating arrangements is often neglected by the teachers in their teaching preparation. It shows that teacher give less attention on the little things like seating arrangement.

This study aims at investigating the students' performance through seating arrangements which use through knowing students participation during the class activity on each seating arrangements as well as the benefits

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Griffith, C. R. A comment upon the psychology of the audience. Psychological Monographs, 30, 36-47. (1921).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Rachel Wannarka - Kathy, Ruhl, Seating arrangements that promote positive academic and behavioral outcomes: a review of empirical research. Classroom Seating and Achievement. (interscience.wiley.com, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Pace, D. and Price, M. *Instructional techniques to facilitate inclusive education*. In D. Schwartz (ed.), Including Children with Special Needs (pp. 115–131). Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. (2005)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> James M. Cooper, *Classroom Teaching Skills*. (Belmont: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011).

and weakness of those seating arrangements based on students' experience. This study used three arrangements in term of seating arrangement, they are: orderly rows, u-shape, and separated table seating arrangement. The researcher engages SMAN 4 Sidoarjo in completing this study.

The reason of why this school chooses by researcher is from my preliminary research, this school is one of favorite school in Sidoarjo, and it is seen from the high level of students' enrollment. Even though language class for second and third grade was removed from the structure class, but English is not more as a fear lesson for students to make a distant. Especially for the first grade show that the high level of their interest in learning English on interest class. These are the results of the survey which held by counseling and curriculum deputy. It becomes the background this school as the observation place. In the case of engaging students' interest in the class, Mr. Nasir as one of the English teachers for first grade, always try to give them new environment, and enjoyable classroom. He is starting from changing their classroom management (seating) until their learning method. He is using nonpermanently seating arrangements, such as: orderly rows seating arrangement for daily activity, u-shape seating arrangement for activity which need to watch video, and separated table seating arrangement for working on group activity. This changing or non-permanently teaching style is to avoid students' boredom in learning English and establish their understanding in English easily.

This study chooses one class from SMAN 4 Sidoarjo, X IIS (Social) 4 class which consists of 33 students. IIS stands for ilmu-ilmu sosial, it is another called of social class, specifically for the first grade of senior high school. The consideration of done choosing this class was because, from interviewing one of the English teachers when preliminary research that he suggests this class as has lower interest and tend to unresponsive than others class during the activity in English lesson.

This study is a case study; Cronbach describes case studies as, "Interpretation in context". Case study research tends to be located within a qualitative methodology, which needs a detail description of the phenomena. Case study concerns on the very essence of the phenomena under investigation, the grounds of knowledge and how individuals understand the world and communicate this knowledge to others, and the relationship between individuals and their environment. From the briefs above the impact of seating arrangements are lack gain attentions. This study investigates on students' performance on seating arrangements, and how they understand their situation and placing themselves during the class activity. This study is interesting, to involve case study and a class with lower interest in English to investigate their performance by arranging their seat position.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Cronbach, L. J. "Beyond the Two Disciples of Scientific Psychology". *American Psychologist*, 30. Pp 116 - 127. (1975).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Stake, R. E. Case Study Methodology, in Welsh, W.W. (Ed) *Case Study Methodology in Educational Evaluation*. Minnesota research and evaluation centre. (1981).

In addition, this study is relevant to some the previous research conducted by Tagliacollo, Volpato, and Junior entitled Association of student position in classroom and school performance. They find that better performances of students at school correlate with lower percentages of absence and choices of seating positions closer to the board.<sup>14</sup> It is different with this study which investigates their participation during the class. And a research by Juhary entitled An Assigned Seating Arrangement Based on Students' Performance: A Critical Review. She argues that seating arrangements based on students' academic record in the previous semester will help to enhance their participation and learning in the classrooms. 15 Yet, the difference with this study because the subject is university students while this study uses high school students in the beginning or first year students. Furthermore, the researcher will focus on "A Case Study of Students' Performance on Seating Arrangements at X IIS (Social) 4 of SMAN 4 Sidoarjo."

## **B. RESEARCH OF THE STUDY**

To achieve those aims, the research addresses the following questions:

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Tagliacollo, Volpato, and Junior entitled *Association of student position in classroom and school performance*. Educational Research Vol. 1(6) pp. 198-201 July 2010 Available online <a href="http://www.interesjournals.org/ER">http://www.interesjournals.org/ER</a> Copyright ©2010 International Research Journals

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Juhary, Jowati. *An Assigned Seating Arrangement Based on Students' Performance: A Critical Review.* Journal of Education and Practice <a href="www.iiste.org">www.iiste.org</a>. ISSN 2222-1735 (Paper) ISSN 2222-288X (Online). Vol 3, No 14, 2012.

- 1. How is the students' performance at X IIS-4 class of SMAN 4 Sidoarjo on orderly rows, U-shape, and separated table seating arrangements?
- 2. What are the benefits and weaknesses of orderly rows, U-shape, and separated table seating arrangements for students at X IIS-4 of SMAN 4 Sidoarjo?

# C. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

- 1. To know the students' performance on using orderly rows, U-shape, and separated table seating arrangements.
- 2. To find out both the benefits and weaknesses of orderly rows, U-shape, and separated table seating arrangements for students at X IIS-4 of SMAN 4 Sidoarjo.

# D. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significances of the study are

- For the students, it is hopefully that from this research can increase students' focus and interest in learning process through seating arrangements.
- 2. For the English teachers, this research is expected to be a reference for English teachers to know the characteristic of each seating arrangement and can teach effectively through appropriate seating arrangement.

3. For the further researcher, this research is expected to provide information and to give beneficial contribution for future research related to this topic.

#### E. SCOPE AND LIMIT OF THE STUDY

This study confines itself to the study of students' performance in the area of students' participation during English learning activity when using those seating arrangements. The researcher determines the scope this study on the dimension of students' performance. It takes their participation to show their contribution during English class, and understanding the material. This study is classroom management, exactly on seating arrangement. There are some seating arrangements which used in this study: orderly rows, U-shape, and separated table seating arrangement. From the explanation above, students' position gives impact on students' performance. Furthermore, the researcher limits this study on students' performance in the beginning of the year on their school and a class which has lower interest in English. This study focuses on investigating student's performance on seating arrangements of beginning students with lower interest in English.

# F. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

To avoid misunderstanding in the way of understand the study, the writer needs to give definition of key terms that are often found in the study, such as:

- 1. Students' performance: Students who demonstrate their competence. Students' performance is significantly correlated with satisfaction with academic environment and service received. In this study, students' performance is the participation of each student of X IIS 4 class during the English class and learning activities.
- 2. Seating arrangements: Seating arrangements refer to the physical setting including the use of chairs and tables in the classroom. In this case, seating arrangements are the arrangements of desk or seat which are used at school for supporting both teacher and students in classroom learning and management. There are some types of seating arrangements which used in this study such as orderly rows, u-shape, and separated table seating arrangements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Ellie Williams, Demand Media at work.chron.com/meaning-academic-performance-17332.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Karemera, D. The Effects of academic environment and background characteristics on students' satisfaction and performance: The Case of South Carolina State University's School of Business. *College Student Journal*, 37(2): 298-11. (2003).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> James M. Cooper, Classroom Teaching...11