

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This introductory chapter provides some information that consists of five sections, namely background of study, research question, objective of study, significance of study, and definition of key terms will be defined at the end of the chapter.

#### **A. Background Of Study**

Learning English as a foreign language is more difficult than learning English as a second language because nations which use English as a foreign language do not use it as a medium of instruction, and it is only taught in schools. Because learning how to speak is difficult for foreign language learners, the teacher needs to create, manage and handle the class to set up a comfortable atmosphere for teaching and learning process. In the other word, the teacher needs to manage to ensure that a classroom lesson runs smoothly despite disruptive behavior by students.

According to Brown (2000, p. 193) students are team members who must be able to meet each other and talk to each other (in English), in the classroom management seating arrangement is one that supports students to meet and talk to each other.

According to Harmer (2007, p. 15) the appropriate seating arrangement in the classroom is one of the success indicators in teaching and learning. It means

seating arrangements take one of big roles in classroom arrangement. The teacher should give the greatest concern on discipline, class control, classroom management, and others keeping order in the classroom (Singh, 2000, p. 13). This is one of the reasons why teachers should determine the seating arrangement for their students. The teacher should know each student on a personal basis (i.e., name, interests, strengths, weaknesses, etc (Kourin, 1977). Moreover, knowing their students inside, outside, and their behavioral pattern is based on what Kourin said that “the teacher should know at once where that student should be seated” (cited in Apriliana, 2017, p. 1).

Generally, students seated at the back of the classroom tend to interact more with each other than those seated in the front row, potentially adversely impacting their attention to the task at hand. Another factor influencing the choice of chair and seating style selection appears to be its ability to promote teamwork and collaboration in the classroom. It shows that the importance of the seating location can have a great impact on student performance, behavior and attention span.

Unfortunately, Cooper (2001) as cited in Apriliana (2017, p. 2) 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 teachers pay less attention to the little things like seating arrangements.

In contrast to the teacher who is concerned about the seating arrangement of students in the classroom, students seating arrangement can have several beneficial effects in a classroom including class participation, behavior, and academic performance. Altering classroom seating positions and arrangements is an easy way to effectively minimize or eliminate student misconduct and behavior without the use of consequence intervention or other differential reinforcement or punishment. Seating arrangements can take several different forms. The student seating is set to be a perfect arrangement. At the beginning of the academic year, students can usually choose where they want to sit. On the other hand, sometimes the student's sitting position is determined by the teacher class. Seating arrangements have long been believed to be one of the factors contributing to the student learning process. Thus, the purpose of the research was to discuss teachers using strategies for seating arrangements in English classes. The setting of seats is a repentant part of the transformed and as a teacher's strength to make students easy to carry with their arrangement, giving participation and being more active in class. When students are graded by setting and sitting their class, it will build student interactions between students and students with teachers. This will support students to be more active in class. Furthermore, Harris and Hill note that the setting and sitting dictate the strength and control as well as the pattern of communication and further challenges that the setting where sitting remains for the entire semester may allow students to develop themselves. Their attitudes toward learning. The intent of this statement

can be concluded that the arrangement is sitting as a pattern of communication and further challenges for students to establish themselves and their behavior in teaching the learning process.

In addition to being able to have several beneficial effects in a classroom including class participation, behavior, and academic performance, the seating arrangement also has a positive effect on students' English learning, especially in developing English skills. An example is the use of group seating which can improve students' speaking and writing skills. As stated by Supiani (2012, p. 3), the implementation of collaborative writing can increase the students' ability to write. The collaborative strategy also makes students more active in expressing ideas and providing feedback from their peers during the writing process. In addition, the use of other seats such as horseshoe seating can also help improve students' speaking skills. According to McCorskey and McVetta (1978, p. 103), horseshoe seating is the best for both students-students and students-teacher interaction with the learning in the class so that they will take part or be active in conversation or discussion activities. Petty (2004) as cited in Hanim (2011 p. 2) said that the discussion is one of teaching strategies that can be implemented to improve students' speaking skills.

Seating arrangements are one of the strategies used by teachers in the learning process. Some researches focus on many different contexts such as (see Fadlilah, Umur, Harvey and Melaine). These previous studies have discussed in different ways of research articles about seating arrangement. Through

qualitative research conducted by Fadlilah (2019) with the aims to investigate the teachers' strategy and the problem in facilitating students' interactional communication through seating arrangement at MAN Surabaya. The result of the study shows that there are two kinds of seating arrangement used by English teachers to facilitate classroom interaction during English teaching and learning. Those are orderly rows and a modular seating arrangement. Moreover the study highlighted the problems with both seating arrangements such as increasing noise level.

Furthermore, recent study was conducted by Umur (2015) which investigated model seating arrangement used in the classroom and its effect on the interaction in the classroom. The study was conducted in the Basic English Course (BEC) which is informal education that provides English as the one and only subject to be taught. Therefore, this situation is probably different from formal education (i.e University, School). In BEC, students who have been studying after 3 months are obligated to use their English language communication in the institution area. However, it is different from students who study in formal school; sometimes they only use English in the classroom. The study data revealed the same model of seating arrangement as the theory speaking class at BEC Pare. Those models were orderly rows, letter U or horseshoe, round or circle and a separate table or sit in a group.

Furthermore, another study which investigated the model of seating arrangement conducted by Harvey and Melaine (2013). In this study, Harvey and

Melaine tried to see a classroom seating model which is considered by some institution to have appropriate design in setting a classroom seat. As the result of this study, students preferred sitting in a model of a seat in a group to the others.

For the seating arrangement to be successful, the arrangement should facilitate interaction among students and teachers, suite the instructional objectives and activities, and ease access to the instructional material. Every day the teacher invited them to chance the bench. They change the seat position according to the direction of the teacher. For the English teachers, this is a way that can make students more passionate about learning. Their teachers have a new way of learning that can make students more excited to follow the hour of learning.

In this research, the researcher will focus on the students' perception on seating arrangement in English class.

Perception appears because of the stimuli through the five senses (vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste) that God gives to the human. It is a process where a person gives meaning to the stimuli in the form of information about the environment around them which is received by their sense. In Al-Qur'an Surah An-Nahl verse 78, Allah SWT. says about the five human senses, as following:

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَا لَعَلَّكُمْ  
تَشْكُرُونَ

This verse explained about five senses of the human, which are vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. It is related to how humans get their perception about something.

In this research, the researcher chose SMPN 5 Muara Teweh as the research site. The researcher is interested in this school because the English teacher uses seating arrangements in the teaching and learning process and wants to know the perceptions given by students to the use of these seating arrangements. Based on this background, the researcher is doing research about “STUDENTS’ PERCEPTION ON SEATING ARRANGEMENT IN THE ENGLISH CLASS”.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the questions of this research that would be discussed are as follows:

1. What types of seating arrangement do the teachers use in English class at SMPN 5 Muara Teweh?
2. How is students’ perception on seating arrangement in English class at SMPN 5 Muara Teweh?

### **C. Objectives of Study**

Based on the research question above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe types of seating arrangement the teacher uses in the English class at SMPN 5 Muara Teweh.
2. To understand students' perception toward seating arrangement in English class at SMPN 5 Muara Teweh.

### **D. Significance of Study**

The significance of conducting this research can be viewed from both theoretical and practical aspect, as describe below:

1. Theoretically, this research is significant to give a theoretical description about the importance of seating arrangement in improving the quality of teaching and learning process as well as creating a positive learning environment in the classroom, especially for English class.
2. Practically, this research is expected to give an insight into the use of seating arrangement. It should be taken into account by the teacher in their teaching and preparation.

### **E. Definition of Key Term**

The following key terms are used to help the readers to have the same interpretation in understanding the study.

1. Perception is students' opinion toward how to teacher's arrange seats in English class which can have an impact on the learning process in the



classroom such as, making it easier to explain learning materials, facilitating interaction between teacher-students or students-students.

2. Seating arrangement is the main part of a teacher's plan for classroom management. Seating arrangement refers to how students' seats are arranged inside the class. This research defines seating arrangement as teacher and students' position during teaching and learning process in English class.