

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher presents five points discussing the main problem of the research. This chapter contains background of research, statement of the problem, research questions, purposes of research, and the significance of the research.

### **Background of Research**

Students' achievement can be influenced by various factors. The factors that can affect students' achievement can be divided into internal and external factors. According to Bolliger and Martindale (2004), internal factors include the interest, talent, motivation, and level of student intelligence, while external factors include the classroom management, unattractive learning models, family factors, and community environment. Both internal and external factors can affect students' achievement. This research focuses on classroom management which is included in the external factor.

Classroom management is one of the skills that the teachers must have. Classroom management focuses on the teachers' efforts to create an optimal condition in the learning process. In classroom management, there are two subjects as a role; those are teachers and students. The teachers have the opportunity to organize and to manage the classroom conditions in order to achieve the learning objective. Therefore, classroom management is aimed to the teachers' role, while as the students they can follow the learning process well in

the classroom. This study focuses on motivation, involvement, and the willingness of students to decide the position seat in the classroom.

People often hear that "position determines achievement". It means that the position of student seat in the classroom can affect their achievement. According to Wannarka and Ruhl, (2008), interaction between students and teachers can occur through seating position, so the seating position should be in line with the class' objectives and learning activities. It can also create an optimal condition in the classroom, create a positive atmosphere, create a good relationship between teachers and students. In addition, Wannarka and Ruhl (2008) found out that classroom seating position becomes an important role in learning, because it facilitates students in achieving learning achievements. Thus, optimal seating positions are expected to enhance the learning process better especially in language learning.

During the researcher's study time, the researcher observed that students tend to choose their seats in classroom. Students who have high motivation tend to sit in the front row. They tend to be quiet and listen to the teacher's explanation well. Additionally, at the end of the class, they may ask questions related to the lesson. This is because they are close to the teacher, and they can pay more attention to the teacher's voice and explanation. On the other hand, the late students and those who have low motivation will sit in the middle to the back row. This is because they are further apart from the teacher's attention, and they will sometimes distract themselves by chatting with other students or playing games on their phone. This is why the researcher was interested in finding out the

correlation between classroom seating position and students' achievement. To examine this topic comprehensively, the researcher conducted a study with the title "The Correlation between Classroom Seating Position and Students' Achievement".

### **Statement of the Problem**

Based on the phenomenon the researcher saw at English Language Education Departments at a private university in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, classroom seating position is influenced by some subjects that are considered fun by students. Sometimes, they scramble to find seat in the front row. On the other hand, in some subjects that are considered not fun by the students, they tend to sit in the back row. Based on the seating position, the researcher saw some differences in the results that were obtained by each student. Therefore, the researcher was curious whether there is any correlation between classroom seating position and students' achievement. Those two questions are correlated and needs to be investigated.

### **Research Questions**

Based on statement of the problem above, the reseacher divided the research questions into three questions. The research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' classroom seating position?
2. How is the students' achievement?

3. What is the correlation between students' classroom seating position and students' achievement?

### **Purposes of the Research**

According to the research questions, the purposes of this research are presented below:

1. To find out the students' classroom seating position at English Language Education Department at one private university in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
2. To discover the students' achievement at English Language Education Department at one private university in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
3. To investigate the correlation between students' seating position and students' achievements at English Language Education Department at one private university in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

### **Significance of the Research**

This research is expected to give some information about the correlation between classroom seating position and students' achievement. This research will be beneficial for students, teachers, and other researchers. The explanations are presented as follows:

**Students.** After reading this research, the students can know the correlation between their seating position and their achievement. They can find out whether their seating position supports the learning process or not.

**Teachers.** From this research, the teachers are able to know the information about whether or not the classroom seating position and the students' achievement is correlated. In addition, the teachers are also able to consider about the classroom seating position to become one of the ways in managing the class.

**Other researchers.** This research can give a contribution for the other researchers. For instance, this research can become other researchers' reference for conducting another research that discuss about this topic. Furthermore, the other researcher can put this research as their related study to support their research.