

## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

#### A. Seating Arrangement

##### 1. Definition of Seating Arrangement

Management of classroom is the method and strategy of educators that uses to maintain the environment and atmosphere of classroom that is conducive to students in process of teaching learning. Although there are many strategies that involved in managing the classroom, a common strategies is making sure the students to get achieve by the right environment. Classroom atmosphere can be changed when the seating arrangements altered.<sup>1</sup> It means that seating ararrangement is the important thing for students which influence to the classroom situation to engage in process learning.

No matter what seating arrangement is used, it must be flexible.<sup>2</sup> In other word, that the display of arrangement should be appropriate for learning process like the activities and purposes. In this way, Denton claimed in Nurma that the classroom can accommodate easily the activities planned by the teacher.<sup>3</sup> By knowing this, the teachers need to plan the suit seating arrangement of students in the classroom.

Moreover, the seating arrangement can affect to the interaction in the classroom. McCroskey stated because the affective of the communication, the

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<sup>1</sup> Nurmasita Siti, "Study of Classroom Interaction and Communication in Geography Class Conducted in English: The Case at Year Ten of An Immersion Class in SMAN 2 Semarang" (Diponogoro University, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Screvener Jim, *Classroom Management Techniques* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

<sup>3</sup> Nurmala, "The Effect of U-Shape Seating Arrangement on Speaking Ability of Tenth Grade Students at SMK TI Airlangga Samarinda," (2014). 31.

participants in the classroom may get the basis of the success. Many interactions happened in the classroom has long to be partially a function because of the students' position.<sup>4</sup> Because of the suitable the seating arrangement, the students can get the positive impact to increase the interaction and communication.

Seating arrangement refer to how the students' interact with another friends (male or female) and students' seats are arranged inside the classroom. Students' activities in the classroom can affected by the students' gender.<sup>5</sup> Thus, the seating arrangement has an important role for the students n the classroom to create the good interaction.

Pockering said in Nuvia that the characteristic of the best seating arrangement are : students can be easily seen by the teacher, students can easily understand the teacher's explanation, can easily access the materials are frequently used, easy to organize the students into pair or a small group, and also the classroom does not provide an unnecessary things.<sup>6</sup> It can be said that having several types of seating arrangement can interfere with the convenience of teaching and learning for students and teachers.

## 2. Types of Seating Arrangement

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<sup>4</sup> James C. McCroskey, *Communication in the Classroom* (Reading Mass: Addition: Wesley Pub, n.d.), 99.

<sup>5</sup> Innocent C. Datondji Pédro Marius Egounléti, Ulrich O. Sèna Hindémè, "Seating Arrangements as a Means for Improving Interactions in EFL Beginner Classes: The Case of Some Secondary Schools in Littoral Region," *International Journal on Studies in English Language and Literature* VI, no. 10 (2018).

<sup>6</sup> Nuvia Rinda Nur Fadlilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement" (UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, 2019), 10.

In daily live, students spend large time in the school with their friends. However, in the classroom seating arrangement arranged in such a way as to create comfort both students and teachers.

According to the experts, there are various types of seating arrangement. As cited in Yvonne, Wannarka claimed the types of seating arrangement are row, group, U-Shape and also an open-plan classroom with flexible structures which are not separated.<sup>7</sup> While according Harmer, the seating arrangement for students could arrange in regular row, coloum, circle, or U-Shape. Furthermore, McCroskey devided the seating arrangement into three types: traditional row, U-Shape/ Horseshoe, and modular.<sup>8</sup>

a. Row Seating Arrangement

This type of seating arrangement is a most common type in the classroom. Row seating arrangement frequently used in the classroom which the desks are place like in vertical or horizontal straight lines.<sup>9</sup> This seating arrangement consist of four until six straight row and each containing put distance between four to seven chairs.<sup>10</sup> In this seating arrangement, students usualy can sit alone or pair with other student. By using this type of seating arrangement, both teacher and students can see each other and get the eye contacts. Teacher also can back and forth if there is an aisle

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<sup>7</sup> Yvonne H.M. van den Berg Antonius H.N. Cillessen, "Peer Status and Classroom Seating Arrangements: A Social Relations Analysis," *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology* (2014): 20.

<sup>8</sup> Fadilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 10.

<sup>9</sup> Kate Simmons et al., "Exploration of Classroom Seating Arrangement and Student Behavior in a Second Grade Classroom" XV, no. 1 (2015): 54.

<sup>10</sup> McCroskey, *Communication in the Classroom*, 99.

and can make interaction to the students.<sup>11</sup> In row seating arrangement all the students can see the board easily because the board located opposite them.

The advantages by using this type of seating arrangement are minimalize the interaction between students- students so this can avoid the noise in the classroom,<sup>12</sup> suitable if the learning uses video, and students also can focus in doing the independent work.<sup>13</sup> In contrast, in this case, the teacher may no keep up the students' behaviour and the teacher may not move affectively from one place to another place to observe the students' development or attitude when teaching-learning is take place.<sup>14</sup>

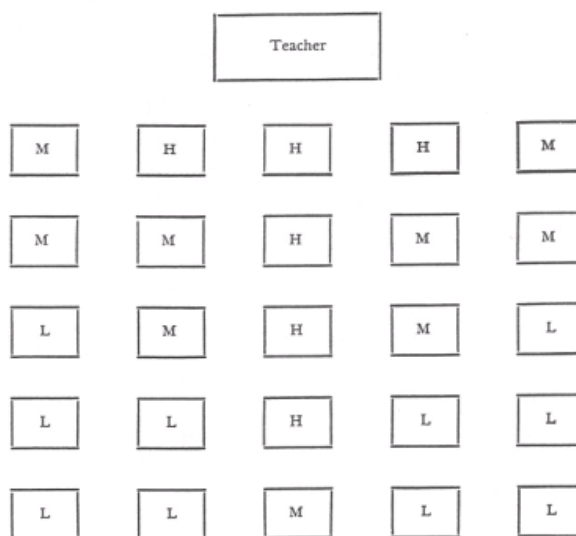


Figure 2.1 *Model of row seating arrangement (adopted from James and Rod)*

<sup>11</sup> Riki Bugis, "Seating Arrangement in Improving Students' Speaking Skill at Iqra Buru University," *Journal al-Lisan* III, no. 1 (n.d.): 83, <http://journal.iaingorontalo.ac.id/index.php/al>.

<sup>12</sup> Fadilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 11.

<sup>13</sup> Jenna S. Havig, "Advantages and Disadvantages of Flexible Seating," 2017, 7.

<sup>14</sup> Bugis, "Seating Arrangement in Improving Students' Speaking Skill at Iqra Buru University," 84.

### b. U-Shape/Horseshoe Seating Arrangement

This is the second type of seating arrangement in the classroom. James cited in Nuvia that U-Shape arrangement the tables and chairs are arrange in shape of U.<sup>15</sup> In the U-shape configuration, it can be said that students are more likely to engage in levels of interactive verbal behavior.<sup>16</sup> In this seating arrangement, The teacher's position at the open end of the arrangement. This type arrangement usually used in smaller classes.

U-Shape arrangement can apply by single or double arrangement where for single it consist only one layer and for double arrangement it consist of two layers. The teacher can see all the students and also the students can see the teacher clearly.<sup>17</sup> The U-Shape can facilitate interaction between students-teacher or students-students.<sup>18</sup> There are also advantages in this type of seating arrangement such as students can see each other and the classroom that can be seen more widely.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Fadlilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 12.

<sup>16</sup> Urs Fuhrer Aand Terry Hartig Alexandara Mark, "Effects of Classroom Seatig Arrangements on Childrend's Question-Asking" (n.d.): 251.

<sup>17</sup> Fadlilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 12.

<sup>18</sup> Marius Pédro Egounléti, Ulrich O. Sèna Hindémè, "Seating Arrangements as a Means for Improving Interactions in EFL Beginner Classes. 21.

<sup>19</sup> Bugis, "Seating Arragement in Improving Students' Speaking Skill at Iqra Buru University," 84.

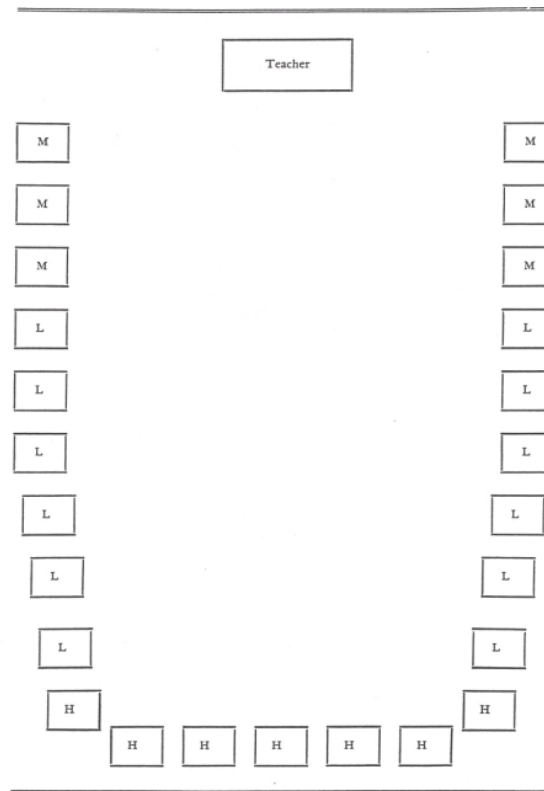


Figure 2.2 Model of U-Shape Seating Arrangement

c. Cluster Seating Arrangement

Cluster seating arrangement is seated of classroom that provides the interaction between students. The students seat closer each other than other seating arrangement. This type of seating arrangement is suitable when the teacher gives the group of work. Partin also said in that the cluster seating arrangement facilitates a group learning interaction.<sup>20</sup> Cluster seating arrangement is effective for students' collaborative learning and also their off-task behaviours increased.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Josephine Esha Roy, "The Impact of Seating Arrangement on Students' Learning in Secondary Schools," *International Journal of Information, Business and Management* Vol. VI, no. 2 (2014): 6.

<sup>21</sup> Simmons et al., "Exploration of Classroom Seating Arrangement and Student Behavior in a Second Grade Classroom," 55.

Therefore, in the cluster seating arrangement the teacher easier to control the students in every group of work while the other students doing their own work. However, in this seating arrangement it may be need an agreement among students to set their sit into this type.

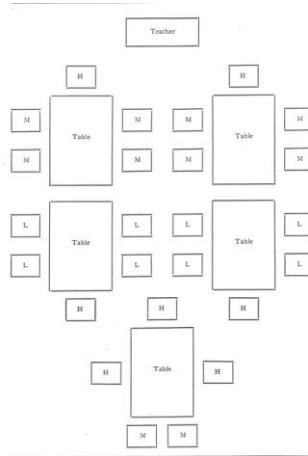


Figure 2.3 Model of Cluster Seating Arrangement

### 3. Problems in Implementing Seating Arrangement

The teacher's designing in managing the classroom has an important role in every classes in how to create the feeling and atmosphere.<sup>22</sup> So the teacher should be concern about the environment in the classroom to make the students comfort during teaching learning. By the seating arrangement, the teacher tries to arrange and create a comfortable classroom atmosphere for students. Besides, in applying seating arrangement also has several obstacles for the teaching learning process.

Therefore, the problems may occur in applying the seating arrangement as follows:

#### a. Problem in Row Display Seating Arrangement

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<sup>22</sup> Jim Scrivener, *Classroom Management Techniques* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 43.

In applying row seating arrangement, the disadvantages may occur in certain activities. In row seating arrangement, the students not easy to make a discussion as a cluster or U-Shape seating arrangement.<sup>23</sup> Thus, students sitting in rows looked somewhat restrictive.<sup>24</sup> The students only have a little opportunity in participating in the classroom and they just have a bit to take control of their learning.<sup>25</sup> By knowing this, that there is a less communication and interaction between students-students and also between teacher-students. When the students need interaction to the other students, one student have to turn arround to another which this situation is not comfortable for students. As cited in Moslemi, Atherton claimed that this seating arrangement seen to be passive for students.<sup>26</sup>

Additionally, the problem may occur in this seating arrangement is only some students pay attention to the teacher's explanation because there is huge distance between teacher and students whose sit in back.<sup>27</sup> Usually the teacher only can focus to the front and middle students. So the row arrangement prefer to lack of communication and interaction.

#### b. Problem in U-Shape Display Seating Arrangement

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<sup>23</sup> Jeremy Harmer, *How to Teach English* (Edinburg Gate: Person Education Limited, 1998).

<sup>24</sup> Anita Susanti, "Applying Seating Arrangemen and Teachers' Role in English Language Teaching to Increase Students' Speaking Ability at STKIP Kumala Lampung Metro," *Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Pendidikan* Vol. II, no. 2 (n.d.): 367.

<sup>25</sup> Pédro Marius Egounléti, Ulrich O. Sèna Hindémè, "Seating Arrangements as a Means for Improving Interactions in EFL Beginner Classes: The Case of Some Secondary Schools in Littoral Region."

<sup>26</sup> Mohammad Moslemi Haghighi and Mahmud Mohd Jusan, "Exploring Students Behavior on Seating Arrangements in Learning Environment: A Review," *Social and Behavioral Sciences* (2011): 289.

<sup>27</sup> Fadlilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 15.



This seating arrangement may probably called useful for communication and interaction in the classroom. James and Rod said in Nurmala that the U-Shape is appropriate for both students-students or students-teacher to make an interaction in teaching learning process.<sup>28</sup> In contrast, the drawbacks of using this type of seating arrangement are this type only suitable apply in a class of small size because if applied in a larger class, the teacher will need a quiet voice in the delivering the material. Harmer added that the teacher difficult to get attantion from the students.<sup>29</sup> Moreover, it is could be a problem for the teacher because the teacher hard to make an eyes contact directly with the students.<sup>30</sup> The other disadvantages from this type of seating arrangement are deploy the students so significantly that it is difficult to handle all of them and make the group work harder because the table cannot be moved easily.<sup>31</sup>

#### c. Problem in Cluster Display Seating Arrangement

The display of cluster seating arrangement is particularly useful in mixed ability classes because the different group of students can enjoy concentrating on different task.<sup>32</sup> However, this seating arrangement has its drawbacks. In the first, students usually sit with the friends who are very close but in this seating arrangement the students may not always with the same person, they probably change in the different time. It is undeniable that

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<sup>28</sup> Nurmala, "The Effect of U-Shape Seating Arrangement on Speaking Ability of Tenth Grade Students at SMK TI Airlangga Samarinda," 16.

<sup>29</sup> Harmer, *How to Teach English*, 76.

<sup>30</sup> Mohammad Moslemi Haghighi and Mahmud Mohd Jusan, "Exploring Students Behavior on Seating Arrangements in Learning Environment: A Review," 289.

<sup>31</sup> Md. Abu Nayeem, "Seating Arrangement in an English Language Classroom: Traditional or Otherwise?," *Bangladesh Research Foundation Journal* Vol. IV, No. 2 (2015): 82.

<sup>32</sup> Anita Woolfolk, *Educational Psychology*, tenth edition. (USA: Pearson Education, 2007), 545.

students sometimes feel bored if they sit with the same person for a long time.<sup>33</sup> The second, this type of arrangement may be a problem because it is impossible for the teacher to see all the faces of the students at the same time.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, sometimes it is become difficult for the teacher to control and manage the students when students need teacher' s help.

## **B. Interaction in the Classroom**

Interaction is the centre of the competence in communication.<sup>35</sup> It means when the students create the interaction each other, they get and share or product through language which they get as their communicative competence. Classroom interaction can be analyze to the students in the class that involved the language. In addition, Interaction between student-student, teacher-students are the most important thing in the learning process.<sup>36</sup> This interaction can be occurred because of feeling exchange, opinion or ideas.

In this case, the quality of the interaction is determined by the teacher. This can be seen from the way they interact with students. Because of the teacher and students meet every day, so both the students and teacher have to build good communication in order to create a good atmosphere during the learning process.

Furthermore, to create good communication in interacting, there are many ways to start. Such as moving to the students' desk, asking students how they are, or providing easy examples for ongoing lessons.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Fadlilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 17.

<sup>34</sup> Nayeem, "Seating Arrangement in an English Language Classroom: Traditional or Otherwise?," 82.

<sup>35</sup> H. Douglas, Brown, *Principle of Language Learning and Teaching* (USA: longman, 2000).

<sup>36</sup> Fadlilah, "Teacher Strategies in Facilitating Students' International Communication Through Seating Arrangement," 18.

<sup>37</sup> Andi Rustandi, "Analysis of IRF (Initiation, Response, Feedback) on Clasroom Interaction In EFL Speaking Class" (Galuh University Ciamis, 2017), 27.

Besides that, as previously explained by experts the seating arrangement also affects to the students and teacher interaction. This is because the seating arrangement is an element of interaction.

Therefore, the teacher is expected to be able to determine the suitable of seating arrangements for students to achieve material during the learning process.

