

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

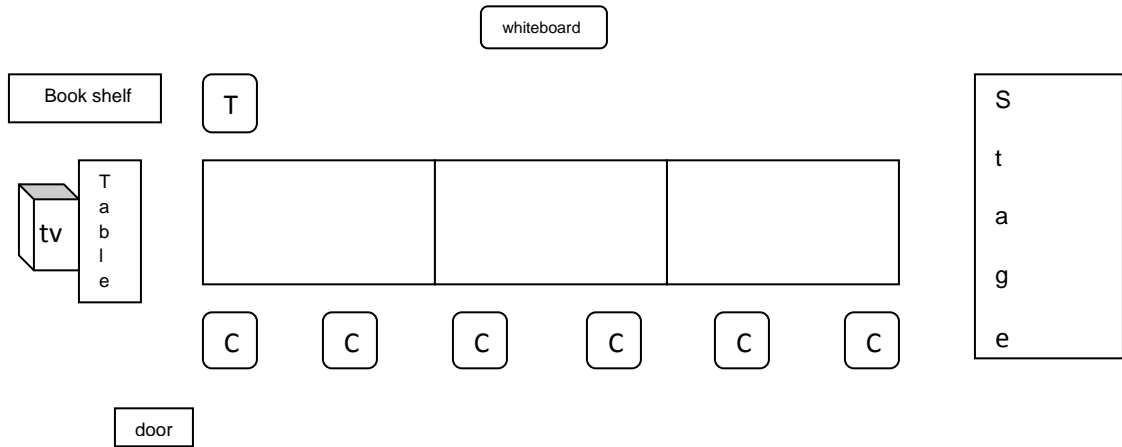
A. Background of the Study

Nowadays the importance of English language cannot be denied anymore. As Dr. G. Manivannan says in his article “Importance of the English Language”, having English competence has been a major condition to succeed in many fields, such as business, commerce, education, and even religion (par. 9). Realizing the importance of English competence, recently there have been many parents placing their children in English learning institutions with a hope that their children will be able to master English.

One of the English learning institutions in Bandung is Early Bird. It provides English classes for kindergarten children, elementary school students, and junior and senior high school students. It was also the place where I did my internship as a teacher and a teacher’s assistant. When I became the teacher, the class teacher helped me as an assistant and then

vice versa. There are two reasons why I chose teaching at Early Bird for my internship. The first reason is because I like English and I really want to share my ability with others through teaching. The second reason is because the teaching and learning condition at Early Bird, with only few children per class, gives me the opportunity to gain a useful teaching experience to the utmost.

However, the seating is not arranged well for the children in the kindergarten class at Early Bird. The following chart shows the layout of the classroom :



T = teacher
C = child

In the class there are six children at the age of five years old. There are usually three different activities in each 90 minute-class meeting, such as story-telling, vocabulary exercises, and watching English programme on TV. The children's seats are not arranged to suit the activities. This negatively affects the learning process since seating arrangement plays an important role in determining the children's participation in class. As is written by Colin

Smith in his book Effective Classroom Management: “A Teacher’s Guide, “Teachers should vary seating arrangement to suit the task in hand” (20), and “Seating should be adjusted to the needs of the pupils and should be arranged in an orderly and efficient way” (30). Moreover, as Suzanne Pitner says in her article “How to Plan a Classroom Seating Arrangement”, “How the teacher organizes the seating arrangement of the classroom has an effect on the rest of the school year” (par. 1). Based on the quotations above, it is very clear that seating arrangement is one of the important aspects in teaching and teachers are required to arrange children’s seats well so that it can help them to study well.

Therefore, in this term-paper I would like to analyze how to overcome the problem of ineffective seating arrangement in Kindergarten class at Early Bird because I realize that seating arrangement is a vital thing to consider when teaching in order to have an effective lesson.

B. Identification of the Problem

In this paper, I would like to analyze several factors, as stated below:

1. Why is the seating arrangement in the kindergarten class at Early Bird not effective?
2. How does the ineffective seating arrangement in the kindergarten class at Early Bird influence the learning process?
3. How should this problem be overcome?

4. What is the best solution to the problem of ineffective seating arrangement in kindergarten class at Early bird?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Problem

The objectives of this research is to examine why the seating arrangement in the kindergarten class at Early Bird is not effective, how it affects the learning process, what should be done to solve the problem, and also what is the best solution to the ineffective seating arrangement in kindergarten class at Early Bird.

There are some benefits for the Early Bird institution, the readers of this term-paper and me. The benefit for Early Bird is that my research will help its teachers to know how to arrange the suitable seating arrangements. The readers will get information on how to set effective seating arrangements in class. Moreover, I hope that this research can be a useful information for me in my future career.

D. Description of the Institution

Early Bird is an English institution that is owned by Mrs.Elly. It was established in 2007 and is located at Jl. Pasirkaliki 71B, Bandung, Indonesia. It provides English courses for children. In the beginning, Early Bird only provided English classes for kindergarten children and elementary students. However, it has developed its programs by providing classes for junior and

senior high school students as well. Early Bird is equipped with instruments and materials that are very useful for the students, for example, coloured books which attract children's interest, a story-telling stage inside the class, animated story books, and many others. Besides providing English courses for various levels, Early Bird also provides music courses for learning guitar, piano, keyboard, and violin.

E. Method of the Study

In order to finish this term-paper well, I gathered data from my thirty-day-internship at Early Bird. I observed one teacher and six kindergarten children who were five years old. I observed how the seating was arranged in class, how the teacher taught and controlled the class, and also how the children followed the lesson. After each class, I wrote a journal about what I had experienced that day. To analyze the problem during my internship, I browsed the Internet for relevant ideas and I searched for information from the books given by my lecturers and from those I borrowed from the library at Maranatha Christian University.

F. Limitation of the Study

My research analyzes the ineffective seating arrangement at the kindergarten level at Early Bird. My internship lasted from July to September

2010. The subjects were one teacher and six kindergarten children in one class.

G. Organization of the Term-Paper

This term-paper has several main parts. It starts with Approval Page, followed by Abstract, Declaration of Originality, Acknowledgements, and Table of Contents. The next part is Chapter I, Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Identification of the Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Problem, Description of the Institution, Method of the Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of the Term-Paper. This chapter is followed by Chapter II, which is Problem Analysis, Chapter III, about Potential Solutions, and Chapter IV, which is Conclusion. At the end of this term-paper, there will be Bibliography, and Appendix.