

Audit Quality: A Review Based on Auditor Ethics, Competence, Independence, and Client Pressure on Audit Quality

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Abstract. This study analyzes auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure on audit quality in Bali Province. Determination of the research sample using a saturated sampling technique. The sample used is all auditors who work in Bali public accounting firms, as many as 116 samples. The data analysis method used in this research is multiple linear regression analysis. The results showed that auditor ethics had a positive effect on audit quality. Competence had a negative effect on audit quality, while independence and client pressure did not affect audit quality.

Keywords: auditor ethics, competence, independence, client pressure, audit quality

1 Introduction

The profession of auditors must be independent in carrying out their duties in the public interest. Public accounting firms are engaged in services and assets, which must have independent and professional auditors accountable for their audit reports. Auditors must be able to improve their performance in examining financial reports to carry out their profession and observe the applicable code of ethics. In an era of intense competition like this, companies want their financial information to be of high quality to the public and investors' eyes to make them look attractive to investors and shareholders. Thus, the auditor must be able to explain that the company is in good condition.

The case that occurred in Bali was the public accounting firm Drs. Ketut Gunarsa has violated the Public Accountant Professional Standards in the audit of Bali Hai Resort and Spa's financial statements for the 2004 financial year, significantly affecting the independent auditor's report. The Minister of Finance suspended the license for public accountants Drs. Ketut Gunarsa, lead partner of the Public Accountant Firm K. Gunarsa and I.B Djagera for six months. As stipulated in decision Number 325/KM.1/2007, the license suspension came into effect on May 23, 2007. As long as the license was suspended, the public accountant was prohibited from providing attestation services,

including general audits, reviews, performance audits, and special audits (detikFinance, 2007).

This is related to an auditor's independence shaken by the client, where independence is the main characteristic that an auditor must-have. Auditors who have high independence will not be controlled by clients or other parties no matter how much pressure they receive. Thus, if an auditor's independence is high, it will achieve the target of completing the task of an auditor quickly and getting better. The second factor that affects audit quality after independence is auditor ethics. Auditor ethics is one of the essential characteristics of an auditor must-have. An auditor must comply with the applicable code of conduct in carrying out his services. Thus, ethics is a guiding principle for auditors to produce quality audit reports. An auditor who is carrying out a public accountant's duties has a clear direction and can provide the right decision and can be accounted for by the parties who use the auditor's decision results.

The third factor that affects audit quality is competence. Competence is the auditor's understanding of examining financial statements. Competence can be said to be a series of experiences and insights that an auditor has. It is concluded that the more the auditors have knowledge and understanding, the better the resulting audit quality. The fourth factor affecting audit quality is client pressure. Auditors often experience a dilemma when client pressure is associated with audit quality when they will easily influence an auditor who does not have high independence. Thus, the better the auditor is in dealing with clients' pressure, the better the resulting audit quality will be. If he finds an error in the client's accounting system, the auditor will still report it to management or shareholders.

Based on the description above, the researchers are interested in knowing the effect of auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure on audit quality at public accounting firms in Bali Province. Public accounting firms in Bali Province were selected as research locations because of the need to improve audit quality in these offices. Also, this research is expected to make a positive contribution to other public accounting firms throughout Indonesia. This study's main problem is how auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure on audit quality influence audit quality.

2 Literature review and hypothesis development

2.1 Agency theory

Agency theory developed by Jensen dan Meckling (1976) describes agency relations as a contract under one or more principals that involve agents to carry out some services for them by delegating decision-making authority to agents. Agents and principals are assumed to have rational economic thinking and are only motivated by personal interests or self-interest. As an agent, management often acts in self-interest, which is inconsistent with the principal's interests. The difference in the distribution of information received by agents and principals causes information asymmetry, causing agency problems. The emergence of agency problems is because the principal tries to make a contractual agreement with the agent for himself by expecting an increase in profitability, which causes an increase in dividends.

In contrast, the agent tries to rationally by maximizing personal interests (Jensen dan Meckling, 1976). Because this relationship creates different parts and results in agency conflicts, the agent must maximize profits so that the agent manipulates in maximizing the desired profit. While the principal is required to trust the financial statements or information presented by the management/agent, agency conflicts can be submerged in the presence of an independent third party where the third party here is the auditor. With the

agency theory, it is hoped that it can help auditors understand the conflicts between principals and agents. An auditor's presence is expected to help convince shareholders or investors that the information provided by management or agents can be used as a basis for decision making.

2.2. Auditor ethics and audit quality

Auditors in making decisions must use rational considerations based on ethical understanding. Making a fair decision and the actions taken must reflect the actual situation. Any reasonable judgment may reveal the correctness of the moral choices the auditor has made. Therefore, to measure the level of the auditor's understanding of the applicable ethical practices and every decision that is made requires a measure. Professional auditors in carrying out their duties have a code of ethics, in this case, the Indonesian Institute of Accountants. In carrying out their activities, public accountants have clear objectives and can provide accountable decisions to other parties. The more an auditor adheres to ethics, the better the audio quality will be. Research conducted by Restuwati (2015) and Ashari (2011) shows that auditor ethics positively affect audit quality. This indicates that the more ethical an auditor is in his profession, the more his audit quality will be increased. Based on the explanation above, the hypothesis developed is:

H1: Auditor ethics have a positive effect on audit quality.

2.3 Auditor competence and audit quality

Auditor competence is the auditor's ability to apply the knowledge, understanding, and experience they have in conducting an audit so that the auditor can carry out the audit carefully and objectively. Audits must be carried out by people who have high professionalism as auditors. The higher education an auditor has, the more knowledge the auditor will have. Also, a lot of experience will make it easier for auditors to find errors in conducting audits.

Research conducted by Carolita (2012) and Kurnia *et al.* (2014) shows that competence positively affects audit results quality. This indicates that the higher the auditors' experience, understanding, and knowledge, the faster the auditors will find errors in presenting the financial statements. The quality of the resulting audit will be. Based on the explanation above, the hypothesis developed is:

H2: Auditor competence has a positive effect on audit quality.

2.4 Auditor independence and audit quality

Independence can be defined as a confident attitude free from influence, not controlled by other parties, not dependent on others. Independence also means honesty within the auditor in disclosing facts, and there are objective considerations. If an auditor is independent, he will give a real assessment of the audited financial statements without having any burden on any party. Then the evaluation will reflect the actual conditions of a company being examined. Thus, the assurance for the auditor's report's reliability can be trusted by all interested parties. The higher the independence of an auditor, the better the audit quality it provides. Research conducted by Kurnia *et al.* (2014) and Ariviana (2014) shows that independence positively affects audit quality. Also, Singgih dan Bawono's (2010) research shows that independence positively affects audit quality. Based on the explanation above, the hypothesis developed is:

H3: Auditor independence has a positive effect on audit quality.

2.5 Client pressure and audit quality

Client pressure is a conflict situation between the auditor and the client. This conflict has become a risk and the profession of public accounting. Hence, an auditor's professional judgment based on auditor confidence and high morals is critical in every auditor's decision to face clients' pressure. Auditors continue to experience ethical dilemmas that involve choices, among others, of conflicting values. According to Fauzan (2016), auditors often experience conflicts of interest with company management. Management may want the company's operations or performance to appear successful, i.e., reflected through higher profits to create rewards. Research conducted by Triana (2010) and Fauzan (2016) shows that client pressure positively affects audit quality. The higher the pressure from the client, the higher the quality of the report. This means that the better the auditor is in dealing with clients' anxiety, the better the quality of the resulting audit will be. If the auditor finds an error in the client's accounting system, the auditor will still report it. Based on the explanation above, the hypothesis developed is:

H4: Client pressure has a positive effect on audit quality.

3 Method

3.1 Research sites

This research was conducted on public accountants in Bali Province, which has an operating license from the State Financial Agency of the Republic of Indonesia. This public accounting firm is a member of IAPI and registered with the Indonesian Institute of Public Accountants directory (2020).

3.2 Research Object

According to Sugiyono (2016:41), this research's object is a scientific objective to obtain data with specific purposes and uses an objective, valid, and reliable thing about something (certain variables). This research's objects are auditor ethics, competence, independence, client pressure, and audit quality.

3.3 Variable Identification

Variabel-variabel yang diidentifikasi dalam penelitian ini dapat dikelompokkan sebagai berikut:

1. The dependent variable (dependent), namely the variable that is affected or that is the result of the independent variable (Sugiyono 2016:40). The dependent variable in this study is audit quality.
2. Independent variables (independent), namely variables that influence or cause changes or the emergence of the dependent variable (Sugiyono 2016:39). The independent variables in this study were auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure.

3.4 Variable operational definition

3.4.1 Audit quality

Audit quality is an inspection process carried out by the auditor according to applicable audit standards. The auditor can disclose and report any errors in the results of the audit report. Based on an audit conducted of an entity's previous financial statements, the auditor expresses an opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly. Audit quality is measured using instruments adopted from Atiqoh (2016) research. The indicators used to measure audit quality in this study are the quality of the audit results report and the conformity of the inspection with the audit standards (Atiqoh, 2016). Audit quality measurement is carried out through 4 statement items. Each item is assigned a score of 1 to 5.

3.4.2 Auditor ethics

Auditor ethics is an auditor's characteristic concerning assessing good things and bad things and about moral rights and obligations. To improve auditors' performance, auditors must maintain standards of behavior guided by a code of ethics to produce quality audits. Each auditor determines what is considered unethical for both the auditor himself and the client. Auditor ethics is measured using instruments adopted from research by Kurnia *et al.* (2014). The indicators used to measure auditors' ethics in this study are professional responsibility, public interest, integrity, objectivity, professional competence and prudence, confidentiality, professional behavior, and compliance with technical standards (Kurnia *et al.*, 2014). auditors are carried out through 15 statement items. Each item is assigned a score of 1 to 5.

3.4.3 Auditor competence

Competence is the ability to do a job or task based on understanding, knowledge, and experience and is supported by a hard work attitude. Thus, competence shows understanding, knowledge, and expertise, followed by professionalism in completing tasks as an auditor. Competence is a person's ability to produce at a satisfactory level in the workplace, including one's ability to transfer and apply this understanding, knowledge, and experience. Auditors need competence because if there is no auditors' competence, auditors conducting audits of financial statements are hampered. Competence is measured using instruments adopted from research by Kurnia *et al.* (2014). Competency measurement is carried out through 4 statement items. The indicators used to measure competence in this study are knowledge and experience (Kurnia *et al.*, 2014).

3.4.4 Auditor independence

Independence is a mental attitude free from influence and is based on the auditor's honesty in carrying out his duties. With honesty in auditors, auditors can consider facts objectively and impartially. Many financial statements users are willing to rely on external audit reports for the fairness of financial statements because of their expectations of the auditor's unbiased viewpoint. Independence is measured using an instrument adapted from Kurnia *et al.*'s (2014) research. The indicators used to measure independence in this study are the length of the relationship with the client, pressure from clients, reviews from fellow auditors, and the provision of non-audit services (Kurnia *et al.*, 2014). The independence measurement is done through 5 statement items. Each item is assigned a score of 1 to 5.

3.4.5 Client pressure

Client pressure is a conflict between the auditor and the client. Client pressure can be interpreted as auditors' obstacles in carrying out tasks in the audit process. Auditors must face a dilemma between carrying out their duties according to applicable standards and risking losing clients or having to accept losses but still carrying out their responsibilities according to established audit standards. Clients are measured using instruments adapted from research (Dewi dan Budiarta, 2015). Each item is given a score of 1 to 5.

3.5 Population and Research Sample

This study's population were all accountants who worked at the Public Accounting Firm (KAP) in Bali Province, who were members of the Indonesian Institute of Public Accountants (IAPI) in 2020, namely 116 auditors. The sample in this study used a saturated sample so that the sample size was 116 auditors.

4 Result and discussion

4.1 Research Data

4.1.1 Research Respondents

There were 115 questionnaires distributed to respondents. One questionnaire was not distributed because the public accounting firm was no longer active; 31 questionnaires did not return, while 84 returned. All questionnaires that were completed and fulfilled were then analyzed.

4.1.2 Characteristics of Research Respondents

The respondents' characteristics in this study were the 84 respondents' profiles who participated in filling out the questionnaire. The features of the research respondents include gender, education level, and position. The characteristics of respondents can be seen in Table 4.2, Table 4.3, and Table 4.4.

Table 4.2 Characteristics of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Total (Person)	Percentage (%)
Male	34	40,5 %
Female	50	59,5 %
Total	84	100 %

Table 4.2 shows the proportion of male and female auditors based on gender. It is seen that the number of male auditors is 34 respondents, 40.5 percent, and female auditors as many as 50 respondents, 59.5 percent, and the total male and female auditors are 84 respondents.

Table 4.3 Characteristics of Respondents Based on Recent Education

Last Education	Number (Person)	Percentage (%)
S3	0	0 %
S2	13	15,4 %
S1	64	76,2 %
D3	6	7,2 %
SLTA	1	1.2 %
Total	84	100 %

Table 4.3 serves to determine the last education of the respondent. In Table 5.3, respondents who had S3 education level were 0 people (0%), S2 as many as 13 people (15.4 percent), S1 as many as 64 people (76.2%), D3 as many as six people (7.2%), and Senior High School as many as one person (1.2%).

Table 4.4 Characteristics of Respondents by Position

Position	Number (Person)	Percentage (%)
Junior Auditor	48	57,2 %
Senior Auditor	35	41,6 %
Manager	1	1,2 %
Partner	0	0 %
Total	84	100 %

Table 4.4 serves to determine the position currently held by the respondent. Forty-eight respondents became junior auditors or 57.2 percent, as many as 35 people as senior auditors or as many as 41.6 percent, as many as one people or as much as 1.2 percent as a partner, many as 0 people or as partners.

4.2 Analysis Results

4.2.1 Descriptive Statistics

Table 4.5 Descriptive Statistical Test Results

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
KA	84	16.00	20.00	16.9048	1.31368
EA	84	60.00	75.00	63.8810	4.68374
KT	84	16.00	20.00	17.2143	1.53726
ID	84	17.00	25.00	20.8810	1.82621
TK	84	12.00	12.00	17.0476	2.39932
Valid N (listwise)	84				

Based on the results of the descriptive statistical test above, it can be explained in detail as follows that the audit quality variable has a minimum value of 16.00, a maximum value of

20.00, a mean value of 16.9048, and a standard deviation of 1.31368. The auditor ethics variable has a minimum value of 60.00, a maximum value of 75.00, a mean value of 63.8810, and a standard deviation of 4.68374. The competency variable has a minimum value of 16.00, a maximum value of 20.00, a mean value of 17.2143, and a standard deviation of 1.53726. The independence variable has a minimum value of 17.00, a maximum value of 25.00, a mean value of 20.8810, and a standard deviation of 1.82621. The independence variable has a minimum value of 12.00, a maximum value of 25.00, a mean value of 17.0476, and a standard deviation of 2.39932.

4.2.2 Validity and Reliability Test

1. Validity Test

Table 4.6 Validity Test Results

Variable	Instrument Code	Person Correlation	Information
Audit Quality	KA1	0,712	Valid
	KA2	0,793	Valid
	KA3	0,821	Valid
	KA4	0,816	Valid
Auditor Ethics	EA1	0,612	Valid
	EA2	0,546	Valid
	EA3	0,701	Valid
	EA4	0,732	Valid
	EA5	0,729	Valid
	EA6	0,666	Valid
	EA7	0,668	Valid
	EA8	0,789	Valid
	EA9	0,736	Valid
	EA10	0,711	Valid
	EA11	0,771	Valid
	EA12	0,738	Valid
	EA13	0,813	Valid
	EA14	0,741	Valid
	EA15	0,681	Valid
Competence	KT1	0,863	Valid
	KT2	0,846	Valid
	KT3	0,793	Valid
	KT4	0,825	Valid
Independence	ID1	0,801	Valid
	ID2	0,745	Valid
	ID3	0,817	Valid
	ID4	0,870	Valid
	ID5	0,721	Valid
Client Pressure	ID1	0,699	Valid
	ID2	0,618	Valid
	ID3	0,732	Valid
	ID4	0,652	Valid

Table 4.6 shows that all statement indicators in the variables of audit quality, auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure have a person correlation value that is greater than 0.3. Thus, all indicators have met the validity test requirements.

2. Reliability Test

Table 4.7 Reliability Test Results

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Description
Audit Quality	0,793	Reliable
Etika Auditor	0,929	Reliable
Kompetensi	0,851	Reliable
Independence	0,821	Reliable
Auditor Ethics	0,731	Reliable

Table 4.7 explains that all research instruments used, namely audit quality, auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure, have a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient greater than 0.7. The instruments are declared reliable.

4.2.3 Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Table 4.8 Results of Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig
	B	Std. error	Beta		
(Constant)	2,064	1,165	-	1,772	0,080
Auditor Ethics	0,270	0,024	0,961	11,178	0,000
Auditor Competency	-0,148	0,074	-0,173	-1,988	0,050
Auditor Independence	-0,010	0,014	-0,044	-0,740	0,989
Auditor Client Pressure	0,021	0,033	0,039	0,634	0,528
Dependent Variable : Audit Quality Adjusted R ² : 0,705 F Hitung : 50,529 Sig F : 0,000					

Based on Table 4.8, the equation can be made as following:

$$K_a = 2,064 + 0,270 EA - 0,148 KT - 0,010 ID + 0,021 TK$$

4.2.4 Classic Assumption Test

1. Normality Test

Table 4.9 One-Sample Kolmogorov Smirnov Test Results

		Unstandardized Residual
N		84
Normal Parameters	Mean	0,0000000
	Std. Deviation	0,38765143
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	0,105
	Positive	0,105
	Negative	-0,055
Test Statistic		0,105
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		0,200

Table 4.9 shows that this study's regression model has a normal distribution because of asymp.sig is more significant than alpha 0.05.

2. Multicollinearity Test

Variable	Tolerance	VIF
Auditor Ethics	0,481	2,080
Auditor Competence	0,469	2,133
Auditor Independence	0,989	1,012
Client Pressure	0,953	1,050

Table 4.10 Multicollinearity Test Results

Table 4.10 shows that each variable's tolerance value is greater than 10 percent, and the VIF value is smaller than 10. Thus, the regression model does not occur multicollinearity and is used in research.

3. Uji Heteroskedastisitas

Table 4.11 Heteroscedasticity Test Results

Variable	Sig.	Information
Auditor Ethics	0,611	Free of heteroscedasticity
Auditor Competence	0,088	Free of heteroscedasticity
Auditor Independence	0,649	Free of heteroscedasticity
Client Pressure	0,585	Free of heteroscedasticity

Table 4.11 shows that the sig. Each variable of auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure is more significant than 0.05, which means that these variables are free of heteroscedasticity.

4.2.5 Model Feasibility Test

1. Adjusted Test (R2)

Table 5.12 Adjusted Test Results (R2)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. The error of the Estimate
1	0,848	0,719	0,705	0,71382

Table 4.12 test results indicate that the adjusted R2 value (the adjusted coefficient of determination) is 0.705. This means that variations in audit quality can be significantly influenced by the variables of auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure by 70.5 percent. In comparison, the remaining 29.5 percent is explained by other factors.

2. Test F

Table 4.13 F Test Results

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	102,985	4	25,746	50,529	0,000
	Residual	40,253	79	0,510		
	Total	143,238	83			

Table 4.13 means that the four independent variables can predict or explain the phenomenon of audit quality in public accounting firms in Bali Province. This means that the model can be used for further analysis. In other words, the model can be used to present because the results of the goodness of fit are good with a calculated F value of 50.529 with a significance value of P-value 0.000.

3. Partial Test (t Statistical Test)

Table 5.14 Partial Test Results (t-statistical test)

	Unstandardized B	Coef. Std. Error	Standardized Coef. Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	2,064	1,165	-	1,772	0,080
Auditor Ethics	0,270	0,024	0,961	11,178	0,000
Auditor Competence	-0,148	0,074	-0,173	-1,988	0,050
Auditor Independence	-0,010	0,014	-0,044	-0,740	0,461
Client Pressure	0,021	0,033	0,039	0,634	0,528

The t statistical test (hypothesis test) shows the influence of the independent variables individually explaining the variation of the dependent variables. The t statistical test was carried out by comparing the results of the significant value with $\alpha = 0,05$ and can be described as follows:

1) Effect of auditor ethics on audit quality

Based on Table 4.14, it can be seen that the significance level of the t-test for the auditor ethics variable is 0.000, which is smaller than 0.05. This indicates that H1 is accepted, which means that auditor ethics positively affects audit quality at Bali Province public accounting firms. This shows that the higher an auditor adheres to ethics, the higher the quality of the audit. Hery (2016) states that an auditor making decisions uses more than one rational consideration based on prevailing ethical reviews and makes a fair decision. The actions taken must reflect the actual truth and circumstances to improve audit quality. This shows that the more ethical an auditor is in his profession, the more his audit quality will be increased. These results are consistent with Restuwati (2015) research dan Ashari (2011), which shows that auditor ethics positively affect audit quality.

2) Effect of auditor competence on audit quality

Based on Table 4.14, it can be seen that the t-test significance level for the competency variable is 0.050, which is smaller than 0.05. This indicates that H2 is accepted, which means that competence has a negative effect on audit quality at public accounting firms in Bali Province.

3) Impact of auditor independence on audit quality

Based on Table 4.14, it can be seen that the significance level of the t-test for the independent variable of 0.989 is more significant than 0.05. This shows that H3 is rejected, which means that independence affects audit quality at Bali Province public accounting firms.

4) The effect of client pressure on audit quality

Based on Table 4.14, it can be seen that the t-test significance level for the client pressure variable is 0.528, greater than 0.05. This shows that H4 is rejected, which means that client pressure affects audit quality at Bali Province public accounting firms.

4.3 Discussion

From the calculation results shown in table 4.14, it is known that the β_1 value of auditor ethics is 0.270 with a significance level of 0.000, which means that it is below the $\alpha = 0.05$ value. This shows that the variable auditor ethics has a positive effect on audit quality. The first hypothesis (H1), which states that the auditor ethics variable positively affects audit quality, is accepted.

From the calculation results shown in table 4.14, it is known that the β_2 value of competence is -1.148 with a significance level of 0.050, which means that it is below the value of $\alpha = 0.05$. This shows that the competency variable has a negative effect on audit quality. The second hypothesis (H2) states that competency variables positively affect audit quality and are rejected. This shows that the higher the auditor's competence, the lower the quality of the resulting audit. Auditor competence is the auditor's ability to apply the knowledge and experience he has in conducting an audit to carry out the audit carefully and carefully. This study shows that competence has a negative effect on audit quality because the high knowledge and experience of an auditor does not guarantee a quality audit. This study's results are also the same as those of Harsanti and Aprilia (2014), where their research on competence has a negative effect on audit quality. Auditors who have sufficient experience and knowledge may result in low audit quality. Likewise, Dewi and Budiarta (2015) study that competence is not essential in conducting examinations. This research shows that the higher the level of personal quality, knowledge, and expertise does not guarantee that the resulting audit quality is good. This H1 result is inconsistent with research by Carolita (2012) and Kurnia *et al.* (2014), showing that competence positively affects audit quality. In contrast, this study shows competence has a negative effect on audit quality.

From the calculation results shown in Table 4.14, it is known that the value of β_3 independence is 0.021, with a significance level of 0.528, which means it is above the value of $\alpha = 0.05$. This shows that the independent variable does not affect audit quality. The third hypothesis (H3), which states that the independence variable positively affects audit quality, is rejected. These results indicate that independence is not related to audit quality. According to Widhiarso (2011), there are seven reasons why statistical tests do not affect, namely: 1) the existence of outliers; 2) unsuitable model; 3) small sample size; 4) the influence of intervening variables; 5) non-complied pre-conditions for analysis; 6) differences in context; 7) measuring tools that are less valid and reliable. Based on the seven reasons put forward by Widhiarso (2011), an acceptable reason for the cause of the analysis result that does not affect the study is a statistical test which states that it does not

affect. According to. Menurut Tjun, L. *et al.*, (2012), independence has no relationship with audit quality because it is not derived from auditors' mental attitude when measuring auditor independence. Independence does not affect audit quality due to research conducted at public accounting firms in Bali Province, which should not be doubted for its independence because they are indeed independent institutions that stand without influence from any party. It is proven in the results of this study that independence does not affect the quality of the audit results submitted by the public accounting firm as research respondents. Thus, the high or low independence of an auditor does not affect audit quality. The results of H3 are inconsistent with the research of Kurnia *et al.* (2014), Ariviana's (2014) research, and Singgih dan Bawono (2010) that independence has a positive effect on audit quality. In contrast, this study shows that independence does not affect audit quality.

From the calculation results shown in Table 4.14, it is known that the value of β_4 independence is -0.010 with a significance level of 0.461, which means that the value is above $\alpha = 0.05$. This shows that the client pressure variable does not affect audit quality. The fourth hypothesis (H4), which states that the client pressure variable positively affects audit quality, is rejected. This shows that client pressure does not affect audit quality. Some auditors often receive pressure from clients when carrying out duties. Client pressure makes auditors distracted in detecting and even producing audit reports that should be of high quality and accountable. A good audit report has advantages in conveying information from examining findings on the company's financial statements. The fact is that auditors in Bali Province have confidence in maintaining their independence so that the client pressure they get will not affect the resulting audit quality. So it can be concluded that high or low auditors receive pressure from clients that will not affect audit quality. Research conducted by Ramdaniyasyah (2010) states that client pressure is not one thing that affects audit quality. Auditors must instill confidence in carrying out their duties. Thus, no matter how much pressure from the client will not affect the quality of the audit. The results of H4 are inconsistent with the research of Fauzan (2016) and Triana (2010), showing the results that client pressure has a positive effect on audit quality. In contrast, this study shows the results that client pressure does not affect audit quality.

5 Conclusions and suggestions

5.1 Conclusion

This study aims to analyze the effect of auditor ethics, competence, independence, and client pressure on audit quality at public accounting firms in Bali Province. Based on the results, the conclusions obtained from this study are as follows:

1. Auditor ethics have a positive effect on audit quality. This shows that the higher an auditor adheres to ethics, the higher the audit quality will be.
2. Competence has a negative effect on audit quality. This shows that the higher the auditor's competence, the lower the quality of the resulting audit.
3. Independence does not affect audit quality. This indicates that high or low independence of an auditor will not affect audit quality.
4. Client pressure does not affect audit quality. This shows that high or low auditors receive pressure from clients who do not affect audit quality.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the results of the research that has been done, the author can make several suggestions, namely as follows:

1. For further study, respondents should focus on auditors who have more experience, such as senior auditors, supervisor auditors, managers, or perhaps partners, so that the answers given to the study variables provide a positive value.
2. For further research, the data should be collected by asking the respondent directly for information by conducting interviews or through a questionnaire but waiting for the study. The resulting data has a positive value.
3. Future research is expected to use a questionnaire as an instrument for data collection. It would be better if it were added with a direct survey of respondents who were the research sample so that the data collected would be more valid.

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