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The Effect of Management Morality on Accounting Fraud with Internal Control as A Moderating Variable (Study in Pemalang Regency)

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Keywords:

management morality, fraud, internal control.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the effect of management morality on the tendency of accounting fraud with internal control as a moderating variable. The research was conducted at the District Office of Pemalang. A common problem in this research is the occurrence of corruption cases that occurred with the amount of loss and the large number of personnel involved in the corruption case. The sampling technique used is total sampling by using all members of the population as a sample of 70 samples. Data collection techniques using questionnaires distributed to the finance and accounting department at the District Office Pemalang. The analysis technique used is multiple linear regression analysis. The results of the analysis show that management morality has a negative effect on the tendency of accounting fraud. Interaction test results show that there is a significant positive influence of internal control in the relationship between management morality and the tendency of accounting fraud, so that internal control is a moderating variable.

PRELIMINARY

The government system changes from a pattern of centralization to decentralization. This is the impact of the enactment of the government regulation no. 32 of 2004, concerning regional government. Authority is widely given to regional governments to manage and utilize all of their potential, except those which are still the authority of the central government, such as religious affairs, defense and security issues, foreign political affairs, judicial, fiscal and monetary affairs.

Tuanakotta (2010) argues that fraud is an act of organizational personnel both from outside or inside that harms others by breaking the law to gain group and personal benefits. Frauds that occur are inseparable from pressure, opportunity, and rationalization. The concept is commonly referred to as the fraud triangle concept.

The Fraud Triangle theory proposed by Cressey (1953) states that there are three factors that can cause corruption, including opportunity, pressure, and rationalization. Corruption is one of the accounting frauds that often occurs in the government sector. Corruption is a fraud that is still common in Indonesia. The government through the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) continues to aggressively fight corruption that continues to occur in Indonesia. The following are data from the KPK as of December 31, 2017.

Table 1. Types of Corruption

	•	1		
No	Types of Corruption	2004 to 2010	2011 to 2017	Number of Cases
1	Licensing	10	9	19
2	Procurement	86	62	148
	of Goods &			
	Services			
3	Bribery	57	205	262
4	Illegal Levies	12	9	21
5	Budget Misuse	31	13	44
6	Money	0	15	15
	Laundering			
7	Blocking	0	5	5
	Process at KPK	_		

Source: Corruption Eradication Commission, 2017

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) also revealed corruption cases that occurred in the period of 2004 - 2016 where the most cases of corruption were in the government sector.

Table 2. List of Institutions Trapped in Corruption Cases (2004-2017)

No	Name of Agency	Number of Cases
1	Ministries and	225
	Institutions	
2	Regency and City	109
	Government	
3	Provincial government	82
4	DPR and DPRD	46
5	BUMN and BUMD	32
6	Commission	20
	Total	514

Source: Corruption Eradication Commission, 2017

Internal Control System according to Government Regulation no. 60 of 2008 is a comprehensive system of actions and activities of leaders and all employees on an ongoing basis to provide confidence in an organization to achieve efficient and effective organizational goals, reliable financial reporting, security of state assets, and compliance with regulations.

One part of the Fraud Triangle Theory relating to the Internal Control System is opportunity. Opportunities are caused by the weakness of a system that is used to commit corruption. Employees who have the power and ability will take advantage of these weaknesses to commit fraud (Pristiyanti, 2012). Opportunities can be characterized by poor supervision of internal control (Wilopo, 2006), low adherence to internal control (Thoyyibatun et al. 2009), and opportunities in each position to commit fraud.

One of the Fraud's tendencies comes from the individual itself, one of which is morality. Moral is a term of positive action that is usually done by fellow humans (Ariani, 2014). Ramamoorti (2008) said that the root cause of fraud is from behavioral factors. Actors of fraud can come from internal (individuals) or external (companies). The process of transferring development roles, from moral reasoning to developing into a comprehensive structure, is more different and there are balancing factors that can compare with the previous structure (Kohlberg, 1995).

Pressure is a fraud that comes from the pressure of desire and motivation of each individual. The pressure can come from personal employees and from the organization. Pressure can also be in the form of financial or non-financial pressures (Pristiyanti, 2012). Rationalization is fraud that arises from behavior as a result of the commitment and personal moral discrepancies of employees (Rachmawati, 2014). Starting from this rationalization, there can be abuse of authority / conflicts of interest, bribery, illegal gratuities, tender games, and economic extortion that lead to criminal acts of corruption (Sayyid, 2014).

Table 3. Corruption Cases in Central Java in 2010 - 2017

2 Kota Salatiga 3 5 Rp 12.4 b 3 Kab. Karanganyar 2 8 Rp 11.4 b 4 Kota Semarang 3 6 Rp 7.3 b 5 Kab. Sragen 2 5 Rp 6.7 b 6 Kab. Sukoharjo 2 3 Rp 4.4 b 7 Kab. Pemalang 3 24 Rp 4.2 b 8 Kab. Cilacap 2 2 Rp 3.7 b 9 Kab. Jepara 2 6 Rp 3.1 b 10 Kab. Rembang 3 8 Rp 2.8 b 11 Kab. Rembang 3 8 Rp 2.5 b 12 Kab. Boyolali 3 9 Rp 1.9 b 13 Kab. Boyolali 3 9 Rp 1.9 b 13 Kab. Boyolali 3 9 Rp 1.9 b 13 Kab. Boyolali 3 9 Rp 1.9 b 14 Kab. Magelang 2 3 Rp 1.7 b 15 Kab. Wonosobo 1 1 Rp 1.5 b 16 Kab. Kebumen	No	City/ Regency	Num of Cases	Num of	State
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28 Kab. Batang 1 1 Rp 200 m 29 Kab. Brebes 1 1 Rp 150 m 30 Kab. Demak 1 1 Rp 90 m 31 Kab. Grobogan 1 1 Rp 60 m 32 Kab. Purworejo - - - 33 Kab. Temanggung - - - 34 Kab. Tegal - - -	27	Kab. Pati	1	2	Rp 261 m
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31 Kab. Grobogan 1 1 Rp 60 m 32 Kab. Purworejo - - - 33 Kab. Temanggung - - - 34 Kab. Tegal - - -	30	Kab. Demak	1	1	
32 Kab. Purworejo		Kab. Grobogan	1	1	
33 Kab. Temanggung			_	-	-
34 Kab. Tegal			_	-	-
	34		_	-	-
	35	Kab. Purbalingga	_		

Source: Infokorupsi.com, KP2KKN, Directory of MA Verdict

Based on the data in Table 3, Pemalang district ranks 7th in Central Java, which suffers from a substantial state loss of Rp. 4.2 billions. The number of suspects involved in corruption cases amounted to 24 suspects and the highest number among regencies and cities in Central Java Province.

The second reason is from the LKPD (Regional Government Financial Statements) data of Pemalang Regency to obtain WDP (Fair with Exceptions) opinions seven times in a row from 2010 to 2017 from the Central Java BPK. According to the BPK, which led to the opinion of the WDP, among others: The distribution of investment in some offices is still not maximal, it is unclear whether non-permanent investments to regional enterprises of various businesses (PDAU) are not supported by adequate data regarding nonpermanent investments.

Based on these data, it can be said that the accounting system and financial reporting of local governments in the implementation process are not significantly influential to anticipate all fraud and irregularities. This is increasingly interesting to examine regarding the effect of management morality and internal control as moderating variables on accounting fraud tendencies.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS **FORMULATION**

Management Morality and Accounting Fraud

The Fraud triangle explains fraud can occur when there are situations with high pressure, there are opportunities and supported by individuals with low integrity. Albrecht (2004) states that the desire factor to seek personal gain is a motivation for someone to commit accounting fraud. Fraud can be caused by the behavior of rationalization (Amin, 2009). Moral is related to the good side and the bad side of humans, so that the good side is seen as a field of life (Magnis, 2004). Morality is an attitude of true morality (Magnis, 2004). Morality also includes outward actions that are reflected in the attitude of one's heart. Morality can be said as actions and attitudes that are selfless and morally have values (Magnis, 2004). Fraud that occurs in financial statements can be triggered by behavior or morals of a person, that is by changing behavior and trying to cover up by manipulating financial statements in order to abuse assets or cash (Amin, 2009).

Wilopo (2006) in his study explained that management morality towards accounting fraud has a significant negative effect. If management morality is higher, accounting fraud will be lower.



Management's attention will be broader and exceed the interests of the company or individual. The research results of Sumiati (2010) also explain that morality has a significant negative effect on the level of fraudulent financial statements. If management moral is low, it tends to lead to fraudulent behavior and results in the company losing money, the actor will also take action to manipulate financial report data to trick fraudulent actions, so the research hypothesis is:

H1: Management morality has a negative effect on accounting fraud.

Internal Control and Accounting Fraud

The Fraud Triangle theory explains that weak internal control will affect the amount of opportunity to commit accounting fraud. Weak internal control can be used as an opportunity to commit fraud. Effective internal control can protect from theft, embezzlement, misuse of assets in inappropriate locations. In addition, internal control also provides a reasonable guarantee of accurate business information for the success of the company (Giarini, 2015).

The results of the Giarini study (2015) show that internal control affects accounting fraud. Wilopo's research (2006) also shows that internal control has a negative effect on accounting fraud. Fauwzi and Yuyetta (2011) in their research also showed the same results, namely internal control had a negative effect on accounting fraud, so the research hypothesis was:

H2: Internal Control has a negative effect on accounting fraud

Management Morality, Internal Control, **Accounting Fraud**

Based on the theory of the Fraud Triangle, the opportunity to commit accounting fraud can be influenced by the conditions of the opportunity and the absence of opportunities to utilize weak internal controls. Accounting fraud can occur due to the size of the opportunity. Good internal control can close opportunities for accounting fraud (Fauwzi and Yuyetta, 2011).

Systems that are designed and supported with good internal control can prevent the occurrence of fraud either fraud committed by internal or external

companies (Amrizal, 2004). The company's wealth will not be guaranteed if the internal control system is weak. This will also result in ineffective and inefficient operational activities of the company, information that is less reliable, and will even ignore management policies (Wilopo, 2006).

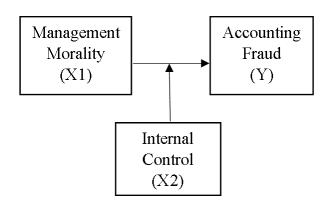
Thoyibatun's research, et al (2009) shows the results that internal control has a significant negative effect on accounting fraud, as well as the research by Fauwzi and Yuyetta (2011) showing the same results, which found significant negative effects of internal control over accounting fraud. Eliza (2015) in her research at the SKPD in Padang city showed that the results of the internal control system had a significant negative effect on accounting fraud. Individuals with a low moral level when committing fraud will depend on the presence or absence of internal control elements. Conversely, individuals with high moral levels will not influence the presence or absence of internal control elements when conducting accounting fraud (Prawira, et al 2014).

Accounting fraud will be influenced by the existence of interactions between individual morality and internal control (Puspasari and Suwardi, 2012). The interaction comes from changes in moral level and internal control conditions, where accounting fraud is caused by individual changes. Conditions without internal control elements will be used to meet the personal interests of individuals who have a low level of moral reasoning. This is in accordance with Kohlberg's moral level, that individuals with pre-conventional levels will commit fraud for their own sake. Whereas individuals with high levels of moral reasoning will not behave fraudulently which will harm others even though there is no element of internal control.

Puspasari and Suwardi's (2012) research shows the existence of interactions between individual moral levels and internal controls. Accounting fraud will not be carried out by individuals who have a high moral level, whether it is supported by the presence or absence of internal control elements. Accounting fraud that occurs in agencies can be reduced by effective internal controls (Fauwzi and Yuyetta, 2011). The compiled hypothesis is:

H3: Internal control moderates the effect of management morality on accounting fraud

Research model



RESEARCH METHODS

Research design

This study uses primary data collected through the results of respondents' answers to questions given to participants directly in the field. Questionnaires were distributed to Civil Servants in the Finance and Accounting Department at Pemalang District Government. The tendency of accounting fraud to be used as the dependent variable, management morality as an independent variable, and internal control as a moderating variable.

Population

The population in this study were civil servants in the finance and accounting department in Pemalang District. The first reason for selecting the population, the finance and accounting department has a great opportunity to commit fraud because it is related to disbursement, use and budget reporting. The second reason is based on the results of the BPK audit of Pemalang Regency local government financial report (LKPD) which still shows that there is no significant influence from the application of the accounting system and the application of government financial reporting to prevent fraud or errors. Data on the number of Dinas population in Pemalang Regency are found in the following table;

Table 4

No	Official in Pemalang Regency	Population
1	Youth and Sports Education Official	7
2	Public Health Official	7
3	Agriculture and Forestry Official	7

No	Official in Pemalang Regency	Population
4	Social, Labor and Transmigration Official	7
5	Culture and Tourism Official	6
6	Marine and Fisheries Official	7
7	Public Works Official	7
8	Revenue, Regional Financial and Asset Management Official	8
9	Population and Civil Registry Official	7
10	Cooperatives, Industry and Trade Official	7
	Total Population	70

Analysis Techniques

Data analysis techniques using Test Validity and Reliability, Classical Assumption Test, Multiple Linear Regression Test, F Test and t Test.

- 1. Test Validity and Reliability
 - a) Test Validity

Questionnaires were measured using validity tests to find out whether they were valid or not. The questions in a valid questionnaire can be revealed and can be measured. Validity test can be seen from the value of correlated items, it can be said to be valid with the criteria of r count > r table and is positive (Ghozali, 2011).

b) Reliability Test

Questionnaire answers were measured by reliability tests aim to find out the answers to a stable or consistent questionnaire. Instrument reliability was tested using the Cronbachs Alpha Coefficient. Reliable instruments have Alpha Coefficient criteria of more than 0.6 (Ghozali, 2011).

2. Multiple Linear Regression Models

This study uses the interaction test or Moderated Regression Analysis (MRA), where the regression equation has an interaction between independent variables, used to measure the influence of the moderating variable (internal control) on the relationship between management morality as an independent variable and accounting fraud tendency as the dependent variable (Ghozali, 2011)



F Test

Simultaneous influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable can be known by using the F test. The criteria is Ha is accepted if the Sig value is < 0.05 or F count > F table, whereas if the Ha value is > 0.05 then Ha is rejected because there is no influence simultaneous between independent variables and dependent variables (Ghozali, 2011).

t Test 4.

Partial influence of independent variables on the dependent variable can be known using the t test. The criteria are if the Sig value is < 0.05 then Ha is accepted (t count > t table), if the value of t is calculated < t table (Sig value > 0.05) then Ha is rejected (Ghozali, 2011).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Normality test

Table 5. One-Sample Kolmogorov - Smirnov Test

	Unstandardized
	Residual
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z	0,874
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	0,430

Source: Primary data that has been processed, 2017

The magnitude of the Kolmogorof-Smirnov value is 0.874 and the significance value is 0.430 which is not significant at 0.05. This can be concluded that the residual data is normally distributed.

Multicollinearity Test

Table 6. Multicollinearity Test

Model	Collinearity Statistics		
Model	Tolerance	VIF	
Morality	0,984	1,017	
ICS	0,984	1,017	

Source: Primary data that has been processed, 2017

The results of the calculation of tolerance values indicate that there is no independent variable that has a tolerance value of less than 0.10, which means there is no correlation between independent variables whose value is more than 95%. The results of the calculation of the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) value also show the same thing where there is not one independent variable that has a VIF value

of more than 10. The conclusion is that there is no multicolonity between independent variables in the regression model.

Heteroscedasticity Test

Table 7. Gleiser Test

Variable	Sig
Morality	0,464
ICS	0,463

Source: Primary data that has been processed, 2017

The test results show a significance value of> 0.05, it can be concluded that there is no heteroscedasticity in the regression model.

F Test

Table 8. F Test

Model	F	Sig.
Regression	12,522	0,000

Source: Primary data that has been processed, 2017

ANOVA test or F test shows that the calculated F value is 12,522 with a probability of 0,000. The resulting probability is less than 0.05, so the regression model can be used to predict Accounting Fraud Trends or it can be said that Management Morality and Internal Control simultaneously influence the Accounting Fraud Trend.

t Test

Table 9. t Test

10010 > 0 1000					
Variable	В	T	Sig		
Constants	97,652	14,764	0,000		
Morality	-0,671	-3,398	0,001		
ICS	-0,172	-3,311	0,001		
R^2	0,257 (25,7%)				

Source: Primary data that has been processed, 2017

MRA Test

Table 10. MRA Test

Variable	В	T	Sig
Constants	203,429	5,606	,000
Morality	-6,322	-3,295	,002
ICS	-1,110	-3,461	,001
Interaction	0,050	2,959	,004
\mathbb{R}^2	0,334 (33,4%)		

Source: Primary data that has been processed, 2017

Discussion

1. Effect of Management **Morality** on **Accounting Fraud**

The results of the regression analysis in this study indicate that the first hypothesis (H1) is accepted and it can be concluded that management morality has a negative effect on accounting fraud. This can be seen from the independent variable management morality has a regression coefficient with a negative sign of 0.671 which means that the effect of management morality on accounting fraud is negative. Significance value of 0.001 which is smaller than the confidence level (α) of 0.05. The results of this study are consistent with research conducted by Wilopo (2006), Fauwzi and Yuyetta (2011), Puspasari and Suwardi (2012), Aranta (2013), Ariani (2014), Prawira (2014), Eliza (2015) which states that management morality has a negative effect on accounting fraud.

The results of this study mean that the higher the management morality, the tendency to commit accounting fraud will decrease. Morality is an important factor that can influence a person's behavior and actions. Management morality in an institution has a great influence on accounting fraud that might occur in the agency (Fauwzi and Yuyetta, 2011).

2. Effect of Internal Control on Accounting Fraud

The results of the regression analysis conducted in this study show that the second hypothesis (H2) is accepted and it can be concluded that internal control has a negative effect on accounting fraud. These results support the research hypothesis. This can be seen from the independent variable internal control has a regression coefficient with a negative sign of 0.172 which means that the effect of management morality on accounting fraud is negative. Significance value of 0.001 which is smaller than the confidence level (α) of 0.05.

The results of this study are consistent with the research conducted by Thoyyibatun (2009), Fauwzi and Yuyetta (2011), Ariani (2014), and Eliza (2015) which state that internal control has a negative effect on accounting fraud. The results of this study indicate that internal control can reduce accounting

fraud that occurs in agencies. Effective internal control of agencies can minimize opportunities for individuals to cheat (Thoyyibatun, 2009).

Effects of Management Morality, Internal **Control and Accounting Fraud**

The interaction test results show a significance value of 0.04 which is smaller than the confidence level (α) of 0.05. These results support the research hypothesis. This means that internal control strengthens the influence of management morality on accounting fraud. This result is consistent with research conducted by Wilopo (2006), Thoyyibatun (2009), Fauwzi and Yuyetta (2011), Puspasari and Suwardi (2012), Ariani (2014), Prawira (2014) and Eliza (2015).

CONCLUSION

The conclusions from the results of this study are as follows:

- The first hypothesis which states that management morality has a negative influence on the tendency of accounting fraud to be accepted. These results indicate that high morality can reduce the occurrence of accounting fraudulent tendencies, and vice versa if low management morality will trigger the occurrence of accounting fraudulent tendencies in an agency or organization.
- The second hypothesis which states that internal control has a negative influence on the tendency of accounting fraud to be accepted. These results indicate that internal control applied to agencies can reduce the tendency of accounting fraud and minimize the opportunity for individuals to commit fraud.
- The third hypothesis states that internal control moderates the effect of management morality on the tendency of accounting fraud to be accepted. These results indicate that internal control strengthens the influence of management morality on accounting fraud tendencies. High management morality accompanied by the implementation of internal controls will minimize the chance of accounting fraud tendency in the agency.



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