

## **Professional skepticism and audit judgment: The moderating effect of audit experience**

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### **ABSTRACT**

An entity's financial performance, position, and cash flows are structurally represented in financial statements, which also capture management's accountability for financial resources. To safeguard the credibility of financial information and bolster public trust, the public accounting profession is instrumental in rendering opinions on the reliability of these financial statements. To validate these financial statements and form views about the fairness of the financial information given, independent auditors conduct an audit procedure. The assessment of financial statements is greatly impacted by the audit judgment, which is an essential part of the auditing process. The impact of professional skepticism on audit judgment is investigated in this study. This study also investigates auditor experience's potential to function as a moderating variable. A total of 76 auditors from public accounting companies registered in Bali Province were the samples evaluated. Purposive sampling was used in this study to choose the sample, and auditors with at least a year of experience were required. Both linear regression and moderated regression analysis (MRA) are the analysis methods employed. The analysis's findings demonstrate that professional skepticism improves audit judgment. The association between audit judgment and professional skepticism cannot be mitigated by audit expertise. The results imply that the relationship between professional skepticism and the caliber of audit judgment is not always strengthened by auditor experience. It appears that both seasoned and inexperienced auditors are capable of exhibiting professional skepticism and rendering sound audit decisions.

Keywords: skepticism, audit judgement, experience

## 1. Introduction

An organization's financial performance, status, and cash flows may all be effectively communicated with the use of financial statements. They show how accountable management is for financial resources. By offering assessments on the accuracy of financial accounts, the public accounting profession contributes significantly to the public's confidence and the legitimacy of financial information [1]. Validating financial accounts through an audit procedure, reviewing the data, and providing a judgment on the fairness of the information are the responsibilities of the independent auditor. A company's financial reports are seen as more reliable and credible when public accountants are involved because of the professional skepticism that is used throughout the audit [2]. The outcome effect and professional scepticism are key factors influencing auditors' judgments and the identification of misstatements in financial reports [3].

Audit judgment is a critical process in auditing that involves evaluating evidence, designing procedures, and determining the audit opinion. This judgment significantly impacts the assessment of financial statements. Factors such as experience, scepticism, professionalism, and ethics influence auditors' judgment. Research indicates that experienced auditors generally make more accurate judgments during the audit process [4]. Studies have highlighted the importance of factors such as professionalism, experience, independence, and task complexity in shaping audit judgment [5]. There has been research on the influence of auditor experience on judgment, and the results indicate that experience has a beneficial effect on audit judgment [6]. Furthermore, research has been done on the use of irrelevant evidence in auditor judgment, the impact of professional skepticism, information technology use, and auditor skill on the quality of remote audits [7]. Research indicates that seasoned auditors typically reach more accurate conclusions while conducting an audit. Another topic of interest is how audit decisions are affected by professional skepticism [3].

A key idea in auditing is professional skepticism, which calls on auditors to have an open mind, analyze the data critically, and determine if management's statements can be trusted. Because it helps auditors to spot and correct any financial statement misstatements, this skepticism is vital to the audit process. Due to its role in improving the quality of audits, auditing standards place a strong emphasis on the value of professional skepticism throughout the audit engagement. Because regulatory agencies are concerned that auditors are not being sufficiently skeptical, they have emphasized the importance of professional skepticism as a core component of auditing [2]. It entails continuing to ask questions and assess the facts critically. Studies show that skepticism is linked to improved audit quality [1], improved fraud detection [8], and better judgment performance [9]. Various factors such as experience, education, and technology impact the application of scepticism [10][11]. Auditors' judgments are indeed influenced by their level of scepticism, with more seasoned auditors typically demonstrating higher levels of scepticism. Research by [2] auditors who exhibit greater levels of professional skepticism are more likely to spot fraud, underscoring the significance of skepticism in audit procedures. Because they take a careful approach, auditors who exhibit high levels of skepticism are more likely to spot fraudulent activity [8].

The Wanaarta Life fraud case is a complex issue that requires auditors to exercise professional scepticism, adhere to ethical standards, and consider various factors such as experience, task complexity, and independence in their judgment. We can blame inadequate auditor experience and skill for the audit's inability to find fraud at Wanartha Life. According to research, when it comes to difficult audit activities, the judgment quality of auditors might be troublesome [12]. Fraud detection is influenced by a number of factors, including audit expertise, professional skepticism, and time constraints [8]. The impact of expertise on auditors' judgments has been extensively researched, with studies consistently showing that work experience significantly enhances audit judgment [6][4][13]. Experienced auditors demonstrate better judgment performance due to their accumulated practical knowledge and skills [14]. Additionally, the impact of work complexity, auditor experience, and audit tenure on audit

judgment has been investigated [5]. These results emphasize how crucial auditor skepticism, expertise, and experience are to achieving high-quality audits and successful fraud detection.

Professional skepticism positively affects audit judgment as it influences important work attitudes and outcomes, including judgments in auditing [10]. Sceptical auditors conduct more thorough evidence reviews, consider various explanations, identify contradictory evidence, and critically assess information sources, leading to better judgments [15]. Increased evidence searching and better audit quality are examples of good auditor traits that result from this heightened skepticism [1]. Professional skepticism also improves fraud detection when combined with audit expertise, demonstrating the beneficial effects of skepticism on audit judgment [8]. In order to improve audit judgments, professional skepticism is essential because it motivates auditors to be meticulous, exercise critical thought, and adopt a questioning mindset. Research findings suggest that professional skepticism may not always have a major impact on audit judgment [13]. Certain research indicate that trait skepticism may not have as much of an impact on audit judgment as previous experiences with clients [10]. Moreover, auditor experience and knowledge were found to significantly impact audit judgment, while professional commitment did not show a significant effect [13]. These results imply that, although professional skepticism is important in auditing, audit judgment may also be shaped by other factors, such as experience and information relevant to a client.

The experience level of the auditor is one element that has been recognized as a possible moderator of the link between audit judgment and professional skepticism. Research has demonstrated that seasoned auditors demonstrate greater degrees of professional skepticism and render more precise assessments in contrast to their less experienced counterparts [10]. Research showing that auditor experience favorably improves audit judgment [4] lends credence to this. Additionally, research indicates that seasoned auditors have greater levels of professional skepticism, which helps them identify fraud [8]. Numerous research has examined the moderating role that experience plays in the link between audit judgment and professional skepticism [10][11].

Experienced auditors are more likely to retain professional skepticism and spot possible management bias, according to studies, which results in better audit conclusions. Additionally, the link between audit judgment and professional skepticism is influenced by the audit task's complexity. Experienced auditors do better when making judgment calls because they can handle challenging audit scenarios and use skepticism more skillfully. Expert auditors use their skepticism and adeptly navigate challenging audit assignments to exhibit excellent judgment performance in challenging audit settings. Their proficiency allows them to differentiate pertinent data from extraneous information in audits, resulting in audit conclusions that are more precise. Studies show that with experience, auditors improve their professional problem-solving, issue-prediction, and issue-detecting skills, leading to higher-quality audit conclusions [6]. Additionally, studies highlight that more experienced auditors generally provide higher audit quality compared to less experienced auditors [16]. Furthermore, the ability of auditors to face and complete complex tasks, coupled with a deep understanding of the audited entity, results in more precise and accurate judgments [5]. Their ability to exercise professional skepticism is crucial for ensuring high-quality audits, as scepticism aids in detecting intentional misstatements and improving audit quality [2]. Moreover, the experience of auditors positively influences their audit judgment, with more experienced auditors generally providing higher-quality audits compared to less experienced ones [16][6]. Additionally, experienced auditors are better equipped to handle task complexity, utilize effective audit evidence, and make sound judgments, ultimately contributing to improved audit quality [17][4]. In summary, professional skepticism is a critical component of audit judgment, and the experience level of the auditor moderates the link between the two. Experienced auditors are more adept at using skepticism, which improves their judgment performance—especially in intricate audit scenarios.

The link between an auditor's expertise, professional skepticism, and audit judgment is examined in this article. According to research, professional skepticism is essential for making

sound audit judgments because sceptical auditors examine the data in greater detail, take into account other theories, and critically assess their sources of information. Professional skepticism may, however, not necessarily have a substantial effect on audit judgment because judgment can also be influenced by other elements, such as the auditor's expertise, past experience with the client, and work complexity. According to earlier research, seasoned auditors tend to be more professional sceptical and make more correct decisions than their less experienced counterparts. However, other studies have shown that there may be more going on here, and that the experience level of the auditor may not always be a moderator of the link between audit judgment and professional skepticism. In particular, research has shown that an auditor's natural skepticism may not have as much of an impact on audit judgment as previous experience with the client. Furthermore, an auditor's audit judgment may be more heavily influenced by their knowledge and experience than by their degree of professional skepticism. These results imply that experience may not have the same or as much of a moderating influence on the link between skepticism and judgment as previously thought. The ramifications of these results underscore the necessity of encouraging and upholding professional skepticism in auditors as well as the significance of ongoing training and professional development to improve auditor experience and competency.

There is ample evidence in the literature that the correctness of audit judgment and professional skepticism are positively correlated. In order to safeguard stakeholder interests, auditors function as unbiased parties that assess financial statements to make sure they are truthful and equitable. This is crucial because management within organizations may have biases or incentives to manipulate financial reporting [17]. Professional scepticism is a crucial trait that empowers auditors to remain vigilant against potential misrepresentations stemming from these conflicting interests [9]. Experienced auditors not only perform audit procedures but also interpret the results, informing further testing and potential adjustments. This emphasizes the importance of seasoned professionals who can provide insightful analysis beyond just executing routine tasks. Additionally, firms' reinforcement of ethical codes has been found to significantly influence auditor judgments, highlighting the impact of organizational values on the decision-making process [18]. Auditors' judgments can be influenced by various factors such as their experience, professional scepticism, and the complexity of tasks at hand [4]. Research indicates that auditors' perceptions of ethical codes can moderate the effects of audit experience and risk on their judgments, illustrating the multifaceted nature of decision-making in auditing [13]. Furthermore, factors like gender, experience, attitudes towards rules, and critical thinking disposition have been identified as elements that can affect materiality judgments, demonstrating the diverse array of factors shaping audit outcomes [16].

In the agency theory framework, auditors play a crucial role as neutral third parties to help reduce information asymmetry between management (agent) and owners (principal). Auditors, armed with professional scepticism and adequate experience, are better equipped to detect, and disclose relevant information for the benefit of the principal. Professional skepticism is crucial because it enables auditors to evaluate the evidence carefully, pose insightful queries, and spot discrepancies [7]. Moreover, auditor professionalism and experience are key factors influencing audit judgment, especially when dealing with task complexity [4]. In order to make an informed decision when faced with complicated tasks, auditors must be knowledgeable, understand when analytical processing is required, and have the mental ability to finish the analysis [12]. Experience plays a significant role in auditors' ability to solve problems, predict issues, and make better audit judgments [6].

Making decisions is essential to the auditing process since auditors have to decide on a number of things in order to guarantee the dependability and correctness of financial data. Professional scepticism is a critical component of this decision-making, allowing auditors to avoid complacency and diligently evaluate evidence to substantiate their findings [2]. The Rational Decision Model puts a strong emphasis on the value of skepticism in helping auditors get pertinent information prior to making audit conclusions. Since regulators have voiced

concerns about what they see as auditors' apparent lack of professional skepticism, professional skepticism is practically required in the audit profession and plays a critical role in preserving audit quality. This scepticism is particularly important in navigating the less structured aspects of audit decision-making, which scholars have likened to a diagnostic process [9]. By maintaining a sceptical mindset, auditors can thoroughly examine the information provided by clients, ensuring they do not overlook critical details that could impact audit outcomes. Additionally, the complexity of audit judgments requires a multifaceted approach that considers various factors. According to a framework based on dual-process theory, auditors must have the required knowledge, use analytical processing rather than heuristics, and have enough cognitive capacity to perform in-depth analysis in order to make effective judgments in complex tasks [12]. This emphasizes the mental difficulties auditors encounter and the necessity of a methodical approach to decision-making that incorporates both analytical and intuitive components.

An essential component of the auditing process is audit judgment, which informs the choices auditors make after weighing the available data and their own conclusions [6]. The knowledge bases of auditors have an impact on their capacity to explain audit results, and variations have been seen amongst experts with varying levels of experience [9]. Studies demonstrating how auditors' knowledge and skill affect their performance attest to the importance of experience in developing audit judgment [4]. Additionally, research has examined the effects of job complexity, obedience pressure, and work experience on audit judgment, emphasizing the cognitive processes involved in decision-making within the auditing profession [19].

A key idea in auditing, professional skepticism emphasizes auditors' intents and behaviors toward being suitably critical and inquisitive in their assessments [17]. It comprises both an attitude and a mentality. The accounting profession and authorities have placed a strong focus on professional skepticism, yet auditors' inadequate use of skepticism remains a global problem [3]. In order to improve the quality of their decisions, auditors are required to retain a critical mindset and presumptive skepticism while evaluating fraud risk [20]. The decisions taken by auditors and the caliber of their judgments are influenced by their experience as auditors, which has a substantial impact on audit judgment [9]. Experienced auditors have different knowledge bases than less experienced experts, which affects how well they make judgment calls. Skilled auditors are better able to evaluate the evidence, justify their conclusions, and explain audit results. Additionally, auditors' professional skepticism is influenced by experience, and this in turn impacts their audit judgment [21].

The development of auditors' critical thinking, evidence appraisal, and fraud detection skills is made possible by professional skepticism, which is an essential component of audit judgment. When auditors maintain a sceptical mindset, they are more likely to question information presented to them, leading to a more thorough examination of evidence and financial statements [3]. This increased scrutiny is vital for identifying potential misstatements or irregularities that may indicate fraud or errors in financial reporting. Furthermore, professional scepticism serves as a defense against cognitive biases that can impact decision-making processes. By upholding a sceptical attitude, auditors are better able to combat confirmation bias, where they may unconsciously seek out information that aligns with their preconceived notions, and anchoring bias, where they overly rely on initial information when making judgments [1]. Professional scepticism encourages auditors to remain objective and impartial, focusing on facts and evidence rather than external influences. Furthermore, the overall efficacy of the audit process and the quality of the audit are directly correlated with professional skepticism. Higher skepticism among auditors increases the likelihood of comprehensive audits, which produces more reliable financial statements and boosts investor trust [8]. This commitment to skepticism strengthens the integrity and legitimacy of the auditing profession in addition to improving the correctness of audit decisions. Furthermore, professional skepticism is crucial for detecting fraud since sceptical auditors are more likely to

look into dubious transactions or behaviours that could point to fraud [22]. By approaching audit procedures with a sceptical mindset, auditors are better positioned to uncover red flags and irregularities that might be overlooked by less sceptical individuals. This proactive stance on fraud detection is critical for upholding the trust and reliability of financial reporting systems. In conclusion, professional scepticisms are a cornerstone of audit judgment, promoting critical thinking, mitigating cognitive biases, enhancing audit quality, and facilitating fraud detection. Adopting skepticism as a fundamental tenet in their work demonstrates an auditor's commitment to objectivity, thoroughness, and honesty, all of which enhance the audit process's efficacy and credibility. Thus, the following is the hypothesis:  
H<sub>1</sub> : Professional scepticisms have positive effect on audit judgment.

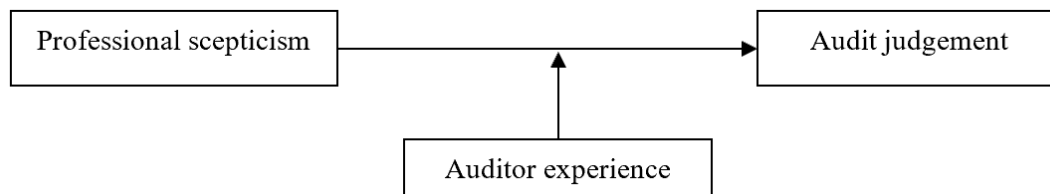
The development of an auditor's professional skepticism and audit judgment are greatly aided by experience. Professional scepticisms are widely acknowledged as essential for conducting high-quality audits [2]. Despite this recognition, concerns persist regarding the level of scepticisms demonstrated by auditors, as noted by various regulatory and professional bodies. Experienced auditors are known to exhibit a higher level of expertise in decision-making compared to less experienced auditors, which significantly influences audit judgment formation [4]. In order to make decisions and do actions that represent professional scepticisms, auditors' knowledge, attributes, motivations, experience, and training must be combined with evidentiary inputs, such as audit evidence [10]. Studies reveal that seasoned auditors exhibit higher degrees of professional scepticism and conservative decision-making inclinations, highlighting the beneficial influence of experience on auditors' scepticism levels [23]. Additionally, it has been discovered that audit judgment is favourably impacted by auditor experience, locus of control, and mistake detection expertise [13].

Experienced auditors are more capable of seeing mistakes, foreseeing problems, and reaching well-informed conclusions, which eventually improves the quality of audit judgment [6]. Skilled auditors are essential in improving the results of audit judgments because they can solve problems and anticipate problems before they arise. Research has shown that auditor experience positively impacts judgment quality and influences the handling of irrelevant information during audit processes. Experienced auditors demonstrate a greater ability to navigate through problems, predict issues, and maintain a high level of professionalism in their decision-making [24][12]. Research has examined the relationship between professional skepticism, audit experience, time constraints, and fraud detection. The findings show that these factors have a beneficial impact on fraud detection [8]. Experienced auditors are more adept at handling deadline pressure and using professional skepticism as necessary, which improves their ability to spot fraud. Furthermore, emphasis has been placed on the value of professional skepticism in fraud detection, underscoring the critical role that skepticism plays in identifying fraudulent activity [22]. Experienced auditors are more likely to make informed and accurate judgments compared to less experienced auditors. Additionally, the level of professionalism and professional commitment of auditors also plays a role in shaping their judgment [14]. Throughout the auditing process, these variables interact to affect how auditors see the world and make judgments. For instance, auditors with greater audit expertise and a strong tendency toward critical thought are probably going to make more correct materiality determinations [16]. The formulation of audit judgment is positively influenced by auditor experience [4][6]. Experienced auditors are more likely than less experienced auditors to deliver correct materiality determinations [16]. These findings are consistent with [24], which highlights the importance of experience, communication skills, and the ability to discern relevant elements in enhancing audit judgment. In conclusion, auditor experience substantially enhances auditor professional scepticism and improves audit judgment by enabling auditors to make informed decisions, detect errors effectively, manage time constraints, and apply scepticism proficiently. The combination of experience, ethical guidelines, and expertise contributes to higher-quality audit judgments, underscoring the importance of experience in shaping auditors' decision-

making processes and overall audit performance. Based on the aforementioned reasoning, the study's second hypothesis is:

H<sub>2</sub> : Auditor experience strengthen the effect of auditor professional scepticism on audit judgement, such that the positive effect of professional scepticism on audit judgment is stronger for auditors with more experience.

The conceptual framework for the research is derived from the theoretical foundation that has been outlined. This conceptual framework is depicted in [Figure 1](#).



**Figure 1.** Research Concept

## 2. Method

This study will be carried out at 19 public accounting firms in the Bali Province, which are included in the 2023 edition of the Institut Akuntan Publik Indonesia (IAPI) Directory and have offices in Kabupaten Gianyar and Kota Denpasar. All auditors employed by 19 public accounting companies in the Denpasar and Gianyar areas made up the study's population. Purposive sampling will be used as a research sample strategy in this investigation. Auditors who have worked for the public accounting firm for at least a year will be the criterion utilized in choosing this sample.

Audit judgment is the dependent variable in this investigation. An auditor's audit judgment on the financial accounts of a firm or organization is based on their own perspective and response to information that may have an impact on the documentation or proof. This judgment's quality will demonstrate how successfully an auditor carries out his responsibilities. Based on this, the indicators that will be used in the study are determination of the level of materiality, audit risk level, and survival of the entity (going concern).

The professional skepticism of an auditor—that is, his or her attitude toward performing audit duties, particularly when it involves asking questions and critically analyzing audit material—is the independent variable in this study. Professional scepticism consists of four indicators, namely: prudence, not easily believing audit evidence, and collecting detailed and sufficient evidence.

The study's moderating variable is auditor experience. The capacity to identify and comprehend mistakes or inconsistencies in the financial statements in light of the auditor's knowledge and abilities is known as auditor experience. Every choice made during an audit is influenced by experience as well, therefore it is ideal that each and every choice is the proper one. This is based on the idea that repeated tasks provide an opportunity to learn how to do things best. Based on several studies on auditor competence, several indicators can be found that will be used in research: training received, length of service of the auditor, and number of audit engagements received.

With the aid of the statistical program SPSS for Windows, this study employs the data analysis techniques of linear regression and moderated regression analysis (MRA). The following equation represents the study's linear regression model:

Equation 1:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1.X_1 + \varepsilon$$

Equation 2:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1.X_1 + \beta_2.X_2 + \beta_3. X_1 X_2 + \varepsilon$$

Description:

Y = audit judgement

$\alpha$  = constant value

$\beta_1$  = professional scepticism regression coefficient

$\beta_2$  = auditor experience regression coefficient

$\beta_3$  = regression coefficient of interaction between professional scepticism and auditor experience

X1 = professional scepticism

X2 = auditor experience

$\varepsilon$  = standard error

### 3. Results and Discussion

Prior to regression, the traditional assumption test is used to determine whether the data are feasible. Heteroscedasticity and normalcy tests are two of the traditional assumption tests that are performed. Regression analysis is done once the data pass the test of classical assumptions. Equations 1 and 2 were created by doing regression twice. The regression results for equation 1 are displayed in [Table 1](#) below:

**Table 1.** Linear Regression Test Results

Description	Beta Value	Significant Value
Constant	11.471	0.001
Professional Scepticism	0.565	0.000

According to the data analysis results, the significant value is less than the significance threshold of 0.05, at 0.000. Furthermore, the regression coefficient ( $\beta_1$ ) is 0.565. These results support the hypothesis, which holds that professional skepticism influences audit judgment positively and significantly in public accounting companies in Bali Province. This suggests that in the local context, higher levels of professional skepticism among auditors are linked to better audit judgment quality. The study's findings are consistent with the agency theory, which holds that professional skepticism is necessary in order to resolve conflicts of interest that may arise between owners (principals) and management (agents). Auditors serve as unbiased third parties who assess financial statements in order to resolve these conflicts. A key skill for auditors to successfully spot and resolve any misstatements brought on by conflicts of interest is professional skepticism. The auditing industry places a strong emphasis on the value of professional skepticism in guaranteeing the production of high-caliber audits [2]. Throughout the audit process, auditors are required to exercise skepticism, challenging the veracity of the evidence and cross-referencing it with other data that they gather and assess [16].

Sustaining the integrity and caliber of audit engagements requires a high level of professional skepticism. Auditors that approach their work with impartiality, critical appraisal, and a questioning mentality are better able to spot abnormalities, recognize possible dangers, and reach well-informed decisions that serve the public good. Auditors can improve the legitimacy and dependability of the financial data they examine by maintaining a professional skepticism throughout the audit process. This will strengthen the audit judgments' overall quality. Enhancing professional skepticism has been found to have a good effect on audit judgment, particularly for industry professionals [17]. Research has further indicated that enhanced fraud detection might result from the combination of audit expertise and professional skepticism [8]. Furthermore, there is a correlation between greater audit quality and professional skepticism [1]. Thus, it may be said that a major factor in raising the caliber of audit judgment at public accounting companies is professional skepticism.



Moderated Regression Analysis was used to test the second hypothesis. The test results are displayed as follows in [Table 2](#).

**Table 2.** Moderation Regression Test Results

Description	Beta Value	Significant Value	
Constant	42.979	0.352	
Professional Scepticism	-0.814	0.621	
Auditor experience	-1.118	0.529	
The interaction of professional scepticism and auditor experience	0.049	0.435	Not able to moderate

Source: Processed secondary data, 2024

The hypothesis is rejected because auditor experience is unable to moderate the effect of professional skepticism on audit judgment, as evidenced by the data analysis results, which show a significant value of  $0.435 > 0.05$  and a regression coefficient interaction of professional skepticism and auditor experience of 0.049. This result implies that the degree of auditor experience has no bearing on the beneficial impact of professional skepticism on audit judgment. Since both seasoned and inexperienced auditors are capable of exhibiting professional skepticism and rendering accurate judgments, the link between auditor experience and audit judgment may not always be strengthened. For a variety of reasons, auditor expertise might not be able to immediately mitigate the impact of professional skepticism on audit judgment. Although audit judgment is significantly shaped by experience, research indicates that auditors' individual experiences may have different effects on skepticism and audit results. Furthermore, rather than being only influenced by experience level, the impact of professional skepticism on audit judgment can also be influenced by other factors as obedience pressure, professional ethics, and auditor independence. Furthermore, the intricacy of the audit tasks may have an effect on the link between skepticism, experience, and judgment performance, and experience is not necessarily a substantial moderating element in this dynamic. Consequently, even while auditor expertise is crucial to the audit process, professional skepticism's negative impact on the caliber of audit judgments may not always be immediately mitigated by it.

Experience is a significant factor in shaping audit judgment, with studies showing that the impact of experience on scepticism and audit findings can vary among auditors. More experienced auditors are generally better equipped to predict and detect problems professionally, leading to improved audit judgment [\[6\]](#). Auditor experience influences the formation of audit judgment, as experienced auditors tend to make better decisions compared to less experienced ones [\[4\]](#). Furthermore, rather than being only influenced by experience level, the impact of professional skepticism on audit judgment can also be influenced by other factors as obedience pressure, professional ethics, and auditor independence [\[2\]\[21\]](#). Furthermore, the intricacy of the audit tasks may have an effect on the link between skepticism, experience, and judgment performance, and experience is not necessarily a substantial moderating element in this dynamic [\[4\]\[5\]](#). Therefore, rather than being purely based on experience, the influence of professional skepticism on audit judgment can also be impacted by variables including obedience pressure, professional ethics, and auditor independence [\[21\]](#). Furthermore, the level of scepticism and judgment performance can be affected by the complexity of tasks, with experience not always being a significant factor in this relationship [\[4\]\[5\]](#). Therefore, while experience plays a role in audit judgment, it may not always directly moderate the effect of professional scepticism. In summary, experience plays a significant role in shaping audit judgment and professional skepticism. Experienced auditors tend to be more skeptical, which results in more cautious assessments and improved decision-making skills. But the interplay of professional skepticism, experience, and other elements like technology and ethics emphasizes how complex audit judgment processes are.

#### 4. Conclusion

According to the study's findings, public accounting companies in the Bali Province's audit judgments are more highly valued when professional skepticism is present. High levels of professional skepticism, which are typified by impartiality, critical analysis, and a questioning mentality, make auditors more capable of seeing possible hazards, spotting abnormalities, and reaching well-informed decisions that serve the public good. The study does, however, also show that the impact of professional skepticism on the caliber of audit judgment is not immediately mitigated by auditor experience. This suggests that professional skepticism can have a beneficial impact on audit judgment regardless of auditor experience level since both seasoned and inexperienced auditors are capable of using professional skepticism to good effect and producing excellent audit judgments. Although auditor experience plays a significant role in the audit process, factors other than experience level, such as professional ethics, obedience pressure, and auditor independence, may also have an impact on the link between audit judgment performance and professional skepticism.

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