

### Introduction

It is possible that people rely on their cognitive biases in their judgments, instead of using the usual methods of analysis (Gerrig & Zimbardo, 2008). One of the types of cognitive bias is framing bias. The framing bias shows that information can be presented to auditors in two positive or negative formats and the way information is presented to auditors will influence their judgment. (Irawati & Solikhah, 2018). According to Tversky & Kahneman (1974), biases can lead to errors in judgment. The mistakes and errors in the auditor's professional judgment can have destructive effects on different parties (Hasibuan, Bukit & Rini, 2022), the main purpose of this research is to examine the effect of framing on audit judgment, as well as providing a solution to reduce the negative effects of framing on audit judgment. In this research, Professional skepticism has been used to reduce the negative effects of framing on audit judgment. Another purpose of this research is to investigate the effects of independence on audit judgment.

# **Hypotheses**

In this research, theories (Attribution theory, Prospect theory, Behavior theory, Cognitive Dissonance theory) have been used for the following hypotheses.

- **H1:** Framing has a negative effect on the quality of audit judgment.
- **H2:** Independence has a positive effect on the quality of audit judgment.
- **H3:** professional skepticism can reduce the negative effects of framing on the quality of audit judgment.
- **H4:** Professional skepticism can increase the positive effects of independence on the quality of audit judgment.

#### Method

The statistical population of this research is working in public and private audit institutions. The time domain of the research is the year 2021. In

research, 500 questionnaires were distributed. Among the collected and returned questionnaires, 420 questionnaires were used as input. After collecting the data, Excel program was used to summarize. To test the hypotheses of the research, the method of structural equation system was used and the analysis was done using SPSS program.

#### Results

In the first hypothesis of this research, the effect of framing bias on audit judgment was investigated. The findings of research showed that framing bias has a negative effect on audit judgment. The results of research are consistent with the findings of (Hasibuan et al., 2022). In the second hypothesis of research, the effect of independence on audit judgment was investigated. The results showed that auditor independence has a positive effect on audit judgment. This result is consistent with the results of studies (Eny & Mappayukki, 2020; Hafizah et al., 2022; Yuliana & Waluyo, 2019).In the third hypothesis, the moderating effect of professional skepticism on the relationship between framing and audit judgment quality was investigated. The results showed that if the auditor has high professional skepticism, it can reduce the negative effect of framing on the quality of audit judgment. The results of the present study are consistent with the results of research (Kusumawati & Ayu, 2022). In the fourth hypothesis, the moderating effect of professional skepticism on the relationship between independence and the quality of audit judgment was investigated and the results showed that if the auditor has high professional skepticism, it can increase the positive effect of auditor independence on the quality of audit judgment. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the findings of (Yunas & Triani., 2022).

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

The most important goal of the current research is to investigate the effect of framing on the quality of audit judgment. The findings showed that framing has a negative effect on the quality of audit judgment. In order to make appropriate audit judgments, auditors must carefully review any information they receive from other parties to perform audit tasks. Because, it has been shown in several studies that the framing effect can force auditors to make irrational decisions. This means that both positive and negative framing will have an adverse effect on audit judgment. In order to

reduce the negative effects of framing, it can be mentioned to have enough professional skepticism while performing audit tasks. The results of this research showed that professional skepticism can reduce the negative effects of framing on the quality of audit judgment.

**Keywords:** audit judgment, bias, framing, independence, professional skepticism.