CHAPTER V
CLOSING

5.1 Summary

This research investigates the influence of forensic accounting skills on fraud detection ability. The competencies examined consist of analytical skills, effective communication skills, psycho-social skills, and auditing skills. A quantitative research design was adopted, with primary data collected through online questionnaires administered to forensic accountants employed by the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK) and Public Accounting Firms (KAP). Based on the questionnaire distribution, 125 responses were obtained from a total of 531 distributed questionnaires. The respondent profile and descriptive analysis were processed using IBM SPSS Statistics, while the outer model, inner model, and hypotheses were evaluated through PLS-SEM with SmartPLS version 4.1.1.8.

The structural model analysis reveals an R-squared value of 0.618 for the capacity to detect fraud. This implies that analytical, effective communication, psycho-social, and auditing skills explain 61.8% of fraud detection ability, while exogenous factors outside this framework account for the remaining 38.2%. Thus, the model has moderate explanatory power. Based on these findings and discussion in the preceding chapter, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. **Research objective 1: Analytical Skills and Fraud Detection Ability**

   Based on the results of this study, analytical skills have a positive and significant effect on fraud detection ability. This means that forensic accountants with stronger analytical skills are better able to examine financial information, identify unusual transaction patterns, evaluate evidence, and recognize potential fraud indicators. Analytical skills help forensic accountants interpret complex financial data and detect red flags that may indicate fraudulent activities. Based on Competency-Based Theory, analytical skills can be understood as a core professional competency because they directly support forensic accountants' ability to perform fraud detection tasks effectively.

2. **Research objective 2: Effective Communication Skills and Fraud Detection Ability**

   Based on the results of this study, effective communication skills have a positive and significant effect on fraud detection ability. This means that forensic accountants with better communication skills are more capable of gathering relevant information, conducting interviews, clarifying evidence, coordinating with related parties, and presenting fraud findings clearly. Effective communication skills support the fraud detection process because forensic accountants must not only analyze evidence but also communicate findings accurately and professionally. Based on Competency-Based Theory, effective communication skills are an important professional competency that enhances forensic accountants' performance in detecting fraud.

3. **Research objective 3: Psycho-social skills and fraud detection ability**

   Based on the results of this study, psycho-social skills do not have a significant effect on fraud detection ability. This indicates that the ability to manage emotions, work with others, handle pressure, adapt to changes, and show empathy does not directly improve forensic accountants' ability to detect fraud. Psycho-social skills may support teamwork, emotional control, and professional interaction during the investigation process, but they are not the main competencies required to identify fraudulent transactions, detect manipulation, or evaluate financial irregularities. Based on Competency-Based Theory, this finding indicates that not all individual attributes directly contribute to job performance. A competency will improve performance only when it is directly relevant to the task being performed.

4. **Research objective 4: Auditing skills and fraud detection ability**

   Based on the results of this study, auditing skills have a positive and significant effect on fraud detection ability. This means that forensic accountants with stronger auditing skills are better able to apply audit procedures, evaluate internal controls, assess audit evidence, and identify irregularities in financial statements. Auditing skills are important because fraud detection requires systematic examination and evidence-based judgment. Based on Competency-Based Theory, auditing skills can be considered core technical competencies because they are directly related to the tasks required for fraud detection.

5.2 Research Implication

Based on the research results, several implications follow.

1. This research provides evidence that analytical skills affect fraud detection ability. Therefore, forensic accountants are expected to continuously improve their ability to analyze financial data, identify irregular transaction patterns, and evaluate audit evidence. Strong analytical skills can help forensic accountants detect fraud more effectively, especially when fraud is hidden through complex transactions or manipulated records.
2. This research provides evidence that effective communication skills affect fraud detection ability. Therefore, forensic accountants are expected to strengthen their communication skills, particularly in conducting interviews, clarifying information, coordinating with audit teams, and presenting findings. Effective communication can support accurate information gathering and help forensic accountants explain fraud findings clearly and convincingly.
3. This research provides evidence that psycho-social skills do not significantly affect fraud detection ability. Therefore, psycho-social skills should be viewed as supporting competencies rather than core competencies in fraud detection. Although emotional control, teamwork, adaptability, and empathy are useful in the audit process, forensic accountants still need stronger technical, analytical, and auditing competencies to directly improve fraud detection ability.
4. This research provides evidence that auditing skills affect fraud detection ability. Therefore, forensic accountants are expected to strengthen their understanding of audit procedures, internal control evaluation, risk assessment, and evidence examination. Auditing skills can help forensic accountants identify red flags, assess irregularities, and draw conclusions based on reliable audit evidence.

5.3 Research Limitation

The findings of this study should be interpreted in light of several limitations that may serve as directions for future research:

1. This study focuses only on forensic accountants working in BPK and KAP. Therefore, the results may not be fully generalized to forensic accountants working in other institutions, such as BPKP, internal audit units, government inspectorates, law enforcement agencies, or private corporations.
2. This study involved 125 respondents from a total of 531 distributed questionnaires. Although the sample size is sufficient for PLS-SEM analysis, a larger sample may yield stronger, more representative results.
3. This study examines only four independent variables, namely analytical skills, effective communication skills, psycho-social skills, and auditing skills. Based on the R-square value, 38.2% of fraud detection ability is still explained by other variables outside this research model. Other factors, such as professional skepticism, forensic experience, digital competency, investigative skills, ethical judgment, and technology-assisted audit tools, may also influence fraud detection ability.
4. This study uses questionnaire-based data, so the results depend on respondents' perceptions. Therefore, the findings may be influenced by subjective judgment, response bias, or differences in respondents' understanding of the questionnaire items.

5.4 Suggestion for future studies

Based on the limitations and results of this study, the researcher provides several suggestions as follows:

1. Future researchers are encouraged to expand the research scope by involving forensic accountants from other institutions, such as BPKP, inspectorates, internal audit units, law enforcement agencies, and private companies. This can provide broader findings regarding fraud detection ability in different organizational contexts.

2. Future studies are suggested to use a larger sample to enhance the generalizability of the findings. A larger sample may provide more stable and representative results, especially when comparing respondents from government and private institutions.
3. Further research is recommended to examine additional factors that may contribute to fraud detection ability, for examples professional skepticism, investigative skills, digital forensic skills, forensic accounting experience, ethical judgment, and the use of audit technology. These variables may help explain the remaining variance in fraud detection ability that is not covered in this study.
4. Future studies may adopt a mixed-methods approach by integrating questionnaire data with interview findings. This approach can provide deeper insights into how forensic accountants apply their skills in real fraud detection situations