

EARNING PERSISTENCE ON FIRM TAX DIFFERENCES AND FAMILY OWNERSHIP

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Abstract- Prior research find evidence consistent with the hypothesis that future earnings influenced by difference between accounting and fiscal earnings (book tax differences). Many investors forming expectations of future earnings information derived from the difference between fiscal and commercial earnings, there were some investors would satisfied to see small differences between fiscal and commercial earnings, otherwise have the opposite view. This study aim to investigate how book-tax difference and family ownership play a role in the persistence of earnings. The authors using a sample 692 firm years of Indonesian listed companies within 2011-2016, they estimate cross-sectional regressions of the proxy for book-tax differences and family ownership on earning persistence. The study found that current pre-tax earnings can predict future earnings and also firm years with large book-tax difference have less earnings persistence than firm years with small book tax difference. Further, this study found no evidence that family ownership have significant role in persistence of earnings.

Keywords: Earning Persistence, Future earnings, Pre-tax earnings, Book tax difference, Family Ownership.

1. INTRODUCTION

All of us will agree that earnings is the most popular from the whole financial report. Earnings always be favourite term to be discuss for everyone, even they are not economist. This condition is consistent with signalling theory, where the company will give signal (earnings) to the stakeholder in order to achieve their goals. As a signal, earnings should have several qualitative characteristics, which mentioned in Standar Akuntansi Keuangan (SAK) 2017. Accounting earnings is used to reflect fundamental performance. It is important to aligned accounting measures with the objects they reflect (Steen, 2016). We could identify companies which likely to show increasing or decreasing future earnings by studying the components of their current earnings. Quality of earnings is defined as relevant information level that a firm can provide financial statement users in their decision-making (Dechow, Ge, & Schrand, 2010). High quality of earnings represents the reliability and relevance of the accounting information. Earnings called relevance when it has predictive value, which is when it persistence.

We investigate the role of book-tax differences and family ownership in indicating the persistence of earnings. Financial accounting texts claims the difference between pre-tax book income and taxable income can provide information about current earnings. The underlying

reason is less discretion allowed in calculation of taxable income. Potential cost and benefit from small differences between fiscal and accounting earnings have been debated in Indonesia. Proponents suggest that small book-tax difference will simultaneously reduce aggressive financial reporting thereby improving earnings quality and increasing tax compliance (Atwood, Drake, & Myers, 2010). Opponents argue that the information required by financial statement users is different from that required by tax authorities, there for small book tax differences will lower earnings quality whereas vice versa large book tax differences will enhance quality of earning (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005; Hanlon, Maydew, & Shevlin, 2008).

According to (Jensen, 2000), ownership structure is significant in determining firms' objectives, shareholders wealth and the disciplined of manager. Both managers and shareholders should have a single objective of maximizing firm value. The family controlled firm or family ownership is the most common form of business organization in the world, and even more popular in Indonesia and other Asia countries. The study of The Jakarta Consulting Group (Hariyanto & Juniarti, 2014) found that 85% Indonesian company's are family controlled.

Whether the family firm is an effective business models remains an issue of ambiguity. Some studies argue that family ownership is associated with lower abnormal accruals, greater earnings informativeness and less persistence of transitory loss components in earnings (Wang, 2006). Higher family ownership will result in lowering earning persistence. The company with family ownership in group firms, was both associated with lower earnings quality (Tessema, Kim, & Dandu, 2018). On the other hand, some studies found that family ownership will reduce agency problem, resulting efficient earnings management and increasing earnings persistence (Siregar & Utama, 2008)

Our result indicate that for firm-years with large book-tax difference have less persistence for one-year-ahead earnings than firm years with small book tax difference. This consistent for the large positive and the negative one. This evidence is consistent with the proponent's conjecture that large book-tax differences will resulting lower earnings persistence. In the other hand, my result could not found evidence that family ownership has impact in persistence of earnings. This result indicate that the persistence of earnings will not differ between company owned by family or not.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follow. Section 2 discusses prior literature review and develops our hypotheses. Section 3 describes our research design and sample selection. Section 4 describes descriptive statistics, and test result. Section 5 concludes the paper.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Book-Tax Differences

Book-Tax Differences defined as discrepancy between accounting earnings and fiscal earnings. Management calculates corporate income tax for two purposes each year, the first is for financial reporting purposes under SAK and the second is in accordance with the Direktorat Jendral Pajak to determine corporate income tax liabilities. For most corporations, taxable income is calculate based on accrual basis rather than cash basis. The difference method in calculating income tax expense will result in difference number of tax expense. Differences between accounting income and taxable income can be large. Some differences, known as permanent differences and the others known as temporary difference. (Hanlon, Krishna, & Mill, 2012) stated that these differences give incentives applying to accounting and fiscal earnings have the effect of making each of these earnings measures incrementally informative relative

to the other, and they present evidence that fiscal earnings is informative even after controlling for accounting income. There are three types of book-tax differences. First, differences in the timing of accrual recognition between book and taxable income which called temporary differences (e.g., bad debt reserve, warranty reserve, depreciation, etc.). Temporary differences present information about the quality of pre-tax accounting accruals. Second, permanent book-tax differences, e.g interest revenue, tax penalties, final accounting revenue. Permanent differences denote as pre-tax book and fiscal earnings that never reverse. Permanent differences are not often suspected to be indicators of earnings quality in terms of accruals manipulation due to they are not related to the timing of accrual recognition. The third are book-tax differences that do not affect earnings before tax, but influence income tax expense account and, thus, only after-tax earnings. Examples include tax accruals such as the contingency reserve and the valuation allowance (Hanlon, Krishna, & Mill, 2012)

Following (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005) exclude permanent difference in this study, because permanent differences are difficult to measure. So, I do not examine the relation between permanent differences and earning persistence.

Differences between accounting income and taxable income can be also small. Small book tax differences simultaneously provides incentives for managers to reduce tax avoidance and to report accounting earnings less aggressively, which will result in improved earnings quality (Desai, 2005; Whitaker, 2006). Higher quality of earnings indicating higher persistence of earnings.

Furthermore the opponents argue that small book tax differences will result in lower quality (or less informative) accounting earnings (Hanlon, Maydew, & Shevlin, 2008; Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005). They argue that the information required by taxing authorities differs from that required by investor. The tax system is designed to meet the government's goals of increasing revenue. In contrast, accounting earnings provides information about firm performance and is intended to reduce information asymmetries between management and shareholders. Thus, the accounting system is designed to allow managers flexibility in conveying information to the market (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005). As a result of these different goals, opponents argue that small book tax differences will reduce the quality of information available to investors and other financial statement users.

2.2. Family Ownership

Families and business company control a high percentage corporations in developed countries. Some of the company relate with one or more other families. This information implies that, in most cases, there are majority shareholder who do the control over the strategic decisions the firm and bear the consequences. Family ownership play an important role in large firms in Indonesia, regarding the relationship between concentrated family ownership and control on the one hand and firm performance on the other hand. Family ownership structure plays an important role on earnings persistence.

Based on agency theory (Jensen, 2000), agency problem arise from separation between de facto ownership and control between corporate insiders (e.g. controlling shareholders) and outsiders (e.g. minority shareholders). Family ownership, how ever represent controlling share holders, while minority share holder represent others (de Sousa & Galdi, 2016), controlling or concentration might have a negative effect on performance (earning persistence) if majority shareholders take advantage of the opportunity to expropriate minority shareholders. On the other hand, regarding about dimension of family control characteristics, family involvement may have a positive effect on performance if the firm's governance institutions. Contradictory many research found that family firms under perform non family firms, however recent studies

in Asia conclude a doubt on this conclusion, and even state the active involvement of the family in management responsibilities is positive for the firm (Majluf, 2008)

Studies found that 85% of Indonesian company is characterized by family business, where most firms have concentrated ownership structures. Therefore, Indonesia company are family controlled. Actually this condition will reduce agency problem type 1 (problem between principal and agent), because there will more engagement between principal and their agent (Astuti, Rahman, & Sudarno, 2015). Besides, this family ownership will more concerned with the company's going concern due to they have it (Segura & Formigoni, 2014). Since this principal is more concerned, so they will more controlled the agent too (Ibrahim & Samad, 2011). So the agent will prepare the efficient earnings management which will increasing the earnings quality (Siregar & Utama, 2008). Actually this condition is support the stewardship theory, where the agent will act as a steward. As a steward, agent will place higher value on cooperation and trustworthy.

Consistent with prior research in this country, this study also stand in the stewardship theory. This study assume that the earnings management in family ownership will efficient so increasing the earning quality

2.3. Earning Quality

Earnings quality is conditional on the decision relevance of the information. The Quality of reported earnings number depends on how informativeness the earning present financial performance (de Sousa & Galdi, 2016). Studies examining earnings quality in both, book-tax differences and family ownership related, provide mixed evidence. (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005) found that firm-years with large book-tax difference have earnings that are less persistent than firm-years with small one. This means that large book-tax difference will reduce earnings quality. This study was opposite with (Atwood, Drake, & Myers, 2010) (Hanlon, Maydew, & Shevlin, 2008) where they found that increased in book-tax conformity may reduce earnings quality. It means that large book-tax difference may increase the earnings quality.

Meanwhile, studies related with family ownership and earnings quality also still have no consistent result. Several studies found that higher family ownership will decreasing earnings (Wang, 2006) (Tessema, Kim, & Dandu, 2018). But Siregar & Utama (2008) found that higher family ownership will increasing earnings quality.

In our country, SAK has mentioned four qualitative characteristics of financial report, that are: relevance, reliable, comparability, and understandable. In this study, we will discuss more about relevance. Information called relevance if the quality or state of being closely connected or appropriate. In the context of financial report, it would relevance if the financial information could effected the user's decision by evaluating prior event, or predicting future, and also correcting prior evaluation.

There are several requirements related to relevance: 1) feedback value; 2) predictive value; 3) timeliness; and 4) complete. In this study, we will focus on predictive value. Financial information will ha predictive value if they could help user in order to predict future by using prior and current information. So, the financial information should be persistence.

One of the most popular information in the financial report is earnings. Earnings also used widely by company as a signal to their stakeholder that management performed great or not. Higher earnings usually indicate higher management performances. Since earnings commonly used by stakeholder to make decision, so earnings should be persistence.

2.4. Hypotheses

We suggest an increasing of book-tax difference will reduce the earnings persistence. The more differences between accounting income and taxable income indicating that the management perform more tax aggressiveness where lead to decreasing earnings quality. Decreasing quality of earnings indicating lower persistence of earnings. So, the first hypothesis is Large Positive Book-Tax Difference or Large Negative Book-Tax Difference have lower earnings persistence than Small Book-Tax Difference.

Meanwhile, the family ownership expected will lower the agency problem, produce more engagement with the management and more control, where lead to increasing earning quality. Increasing earning quality indicating higher persistence of earnings. So, the next hypothesis is higher family ownership will generate higher earning persistence.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

We start with a sample of firm year 2011-2016 from Indonesia Stock Exchange data. Our sample consists of 1037 observation (200 firms), exclude financial services industries. To be included in the final sample, the observation must not have missing variables uses in the regression, a reported financial reporting loss, a negative current tax expense. The reason for these screens is that tax losses can be carried forward and thus become deferred tax assets, changes in which can obscure the effects of “true” book tax difference in the deferred tax expense account. Our final sample consist of 692 observation (174 firms). We partition this sample into three subsamples : LPBTD (Large Positive Book Tax Difference -129 firm years), LNBTD (Large Negative Book tax difference - 98 firm years), and SBTD (small book tax difference - 465 firm years).

3.1. Research Design

Prior studies examining book tax differences in the properties of accounting earnings generally do not control for the effect of family ownership structure, (Majluf, 2008; Ibrahim & Samad, 2011). First, we estimate earning persistence by regression to prove the pre-tax book income current year (PTBI t) can predict future earnings (PTBI_{t+1}). Second, we examining whether small book tax differences have higher persistence of future earnings. We estimate whether the persistence of future earnings is lower for firm years with large negative or large positive book tax differences relative to firm years with small book tax differences

3.1.1. Earnings Persistence

Test of earnings persistence can be measured by regression pre tax book income current year to pre tax book income one year ahead. We estimate the persistence of pre tax earnings using the following equation :

$$PTBI_{t+1} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 PTBI_t + \varepsilon_{t+1} \quad (1)$$

Where PTBI is pre tax book income, as in (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005), we scale all variable by average total assets to allow for cross sectional comparability.

We use the first equation to reveal the prove of persistence of earnings, that is the pre-tax book income current year (PTBI t) can predict future earnings (PTBI_{t+1}). Persistence of earnings proved by a significant value below p-Value 0.05, therefore PTBI_{t+1} is considered as a reflection of current earnings, accordingly PTBI_{t+1} can be used as a predictor for the second equation.

3.1.2. The persistence of future earnings is lower for firm years with large negative or large positive book tax differences relative to firm years with small book tax differences

We have known there were two point of views about the scale of book tax differences. Some of them agree that small book tax difference overviewed persistence of future earnings, while the other refused this views.

To test whether firm years with large negative (positive) book tax difference have lower earnings persistence, we estimate equation (2)

$$PTBI_{t+1} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 LNBTD_t + \alpha_2 LPBTD_t + \alpha_3 PTBI_t + \alpha_4 PTBI_t \times LNBTD_t + \alpha_5 PTBI_t \times LPBTD_t + \alpha_6 FAM_t \times PTBI_t + \varepsilon_{t+1} \tag{2}$$

In equation (2):

PTBI_{t+1} : Pre-tax earnings next year

LNBTD (large negative book tax difference) : is an indicator variable equal to 1 for firm years with scaled temporary book tax differences in the lowest quintile of firms in each year, and 0 otherwise

LPBTD (large positive book tax difference) : is an indicator variable equal to 1 for firm years with scaled temporary book tax differences in the highest quintile of firms in each year, and 0 otherwise

PTBI_t : Pre-tax earnings current year

FAM_t : Family ownership structure

If firm years having large negative (positive) book tax differences have lower earnings persistence than firm years with small book tax differences, then $\alpha_4 < 0$ ($\alpha_5 < 0$), consistent with hypotheses 2

If family ownership structure with current earnings have impact in predicting future earnings, then α_6 will have significant p-value ($< 0,05$), consistent with hypotheses 3

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Statistic descriptive

in million Rupiah	<i>Fam (% Family Ownership)</i>	<i>LNBTDr</i>	<i>LPBTDr</i>	<i>PTBI (t) (in thousand Rp)</i>	<i>PTBI (t+1)</i>
Mean	45	0,186	0,142	282.506,339	302.245,764
Median	57	-	-	68.990,748	77.390,431
Mode	-	-	-	269.216,864	203.109,149
Standard Deviation	35	0,390	0,349	1.335.542,756	1.382.611,199
Range	100	1,000	1,000	27.214.192,894	28.637.276,742
Minimum	-	-	-	-65.192,894	-24.276,742
Maximum	100	1,000	1,000	27.149.000,000	28.613.000,000
Count	692	692,000	692,000	692,000	692,000

Statistic descriptive (continued)

in million Rupiah	<i>PTBI_X_FAM</i>	<i>PTBI_X_LN</i>	<i>PTBI_X_LP</i>
Mean	10.792.370,031	76.431,766	102.983,334
Median	1.584.674,524	-	-
Mode	-	-	-
Standard Deviation	63.445.564,653	772.183,315	1.086.218,340
Range	1.578.810.135,098	17.076.639,894	27.149.000,000
Minimum	-5.251.287,598	-65.192,894	-
Maximum	1.573.558.847,500	17.011.447,000	27.149.000,000
Count	692,000	692,000	692,000

The highest percentage for family ownership structure is 100% (BALI 2012, BALI 2013, AGII 2012, AGII 2013, IMPC 2013, WTON 2013) whereas the minimum is 0%. On Average, the observation have 45% family ownership structure in their equity. This number provides a general overview about ownership structure in Indonesia where the average of the company's ownership structure is owned by families.

As mentioned above we partition this sample into three sub samples: LPBTD (129 firm years), LNBTDr (98 firm years), and small book tax difference (465 firm years). Maximum of PTBI is 27.149 trillion (TLKM 2013) and the minimum of PTBI is -65.192 mio (NIKL 2015)

4.2. Results from tests of earnings persistence and the association between earnings

Table 2. Test of first hypotheses

Dependent Variable: PTBI_T1

Method: Least Squares

Date: 01/15/19 Time: 20:39

Sample: 1 692

Included observations: 692

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	10029.28	2160.479	4.642157	0.0000
PTBI_T0	1.034406	0.001584	653.1350	0.0000
R-squared	0.998385	Mean dependent var		302253.2
Adjusted R-squared	0.998383	S.D. dependent var		1382610.
S.E. of regression	55601.28	Akaike info criterion		24.69269
Sum squared resid	2.13E+12	Schwarz criterion		24.70581
Log likelihood	-8541.669	Hannan-Quinn criter.		24.69776
F-statistic	426585.3	Durbin-Watson stat		1.750981
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Table 2 presents the result from hypotheses 1. We use the first equation to reveal the prove of persistence of earnings, that is the pre-tax book income current year (PTBI t) can predict future earnings (PTBI_{t+1}). p-value in table 2 indicates that firm years in our sample have consistent results with previous findings in (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005; Subekti, Wijayanti, & Rahmawati, 2008; Eka & Dwi, 2010).

Table 3 presents the result from hypotheses 2, it reveals that firm years with large book tax difference have lower persistence in pre-tax earnings than firm years with small book tax differences. Firm years with large negative and large positive book tax differences have significantly less persistence of earnings than firm years with small book tax differences that is α_4 -0.093 α_5 -0.032, two tailed p-values of 0,00001 consistent with the alternate hypotheses stated in H2, while α_6 family ownership have no significance influence to earning persistence. Our sample also have consistent results with previous findings in (Hanlon, Laplante, & Shevlin, 2005) (Hanlon, Maydew, & Shevlin, An unintended consequence of book-tax conformity: a loss of earnings informativeness, 2008) (Eka & Dwi, 2010)

Table 3 Test of second hypotheses

Dependent Variable: PTBI_T1

Method: Least Squares

Date: 01/15/19 Time: 20:45

Sample: 1 692

Included observations: 692

White heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors & covariance

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	3848.791	2411.226	1.596197	0.1109
PTBI_T0	1.085696	0.007351	147.6970	0.0000
LNBTD	5054.770	3909.204	1.293043	0.1964
LPBTD	2887.864	5187.627	0.556683	0.5779
FAM	20.59441	40.06756	0.513992	0.6074
PTBI_X_LN	-0.092269	0.007779	-11.86167	0.0000
PTBI_X_LP	-0.032230	0.007379	-4.368007	0.0000
PTBI_X_FAM	-0.001760	0.004410	-0.399199	0.6899
R-squared	0.999241	Mean dependent var	302253.2	
Adjusted R-squared	0.999233	S.D. dependent var	1382610.	
S.E. of regression	38288.37	Akaike info criterion	23.95517	
Sum squared resid	1.00E+12	Schwarz criterion	24.00765	
Log likelihood	-8280.490	Hannan-Quinn criter.	23.97547	
F-statistic	128622.2	Durbin-Watson stat	1.856501	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Table 4 (Robustness Test : exclude family ownership variable)

Dependent Variable: PTBI_T1

Method: Least Squares

Date: 01/27/19 Time: 13:53

Sample: 1 692

Included observations: 692

White heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors & covariance

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	4794.102	1601.238	2.993998	0.0029
PTBI_T0	1.085009	0.007285	148.9352	0.0000
LNBTD	5062.617	3869.503	1.308338	0.1912
LPBTD	2385.841	5081.504	0.469515	0.6389
PTBI_X_LN	-0.092732	0.007386	-12.55591	0.0000
PTBI_X_LP	-0.031601	0.007301	-4.328256	0.0000
R-squared	0.999240	Mean dependent var	302253.2	
Adjusted R-squared	0.999235	S.D. dependent var	1382610.	

S.E. of regression	38242.01	Akaike info criterion	23.94989
Sum squared resid	1.00E+12	Schwarz criterion	23.98925
Log likelihood	-8280.662	Hannan-Quinn criter.	23.96511
F-statistic	180507.8	Durbin-Watson stat	1.856727
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000		

Table 4, We exclude family ownership variable to control test whether the large book tax difference still have lower persistence in pre-tax earnings than firm years with small book tax differences. The results consistent with table 3, that is firm years with large negative and large positive book tax differences have significantly less persistence earnings than firm-years with small book tax differences that is α_4 -0.093 α_5 -0.032 , two tailed p-values of 0,00001 consistent with the alternate hypotheses stated in H2.

5. CONCLUSION

The objective of our research is to examine the role of temporary book-tax differences in indicating the persistence of earnings.

We find evidence that firm years with large positive book tax difference have lower earning persistence than firm year with small book tax difference. This result is consistent with common notion that when book income is far in excess of taxable income, earnings have lower quality.

We also find evidence that firm years with large negative book tax difference have lower earning persistence than firm years with small book tax difference. Large negative book-tax differences are associated with accruals that have lower persistence for future earnings. This lower earnings persistence also robust after we exclude family ownership variable in the equation.

We include family ownership structure to examine whether book tax difference moderating with family ownership structure will lower persistence of future earnings. The result indicate family ownership structure moderating with book tax difference have no relation with future earnings.

There are several limitation to this research. First the limited sample size and time period impede generalizing the results to other sample and period of times. Second, the limitation of family ownership structure measurement, future research need to lookup the effect of controlling share holder and entrenchment effects of real family ownership.

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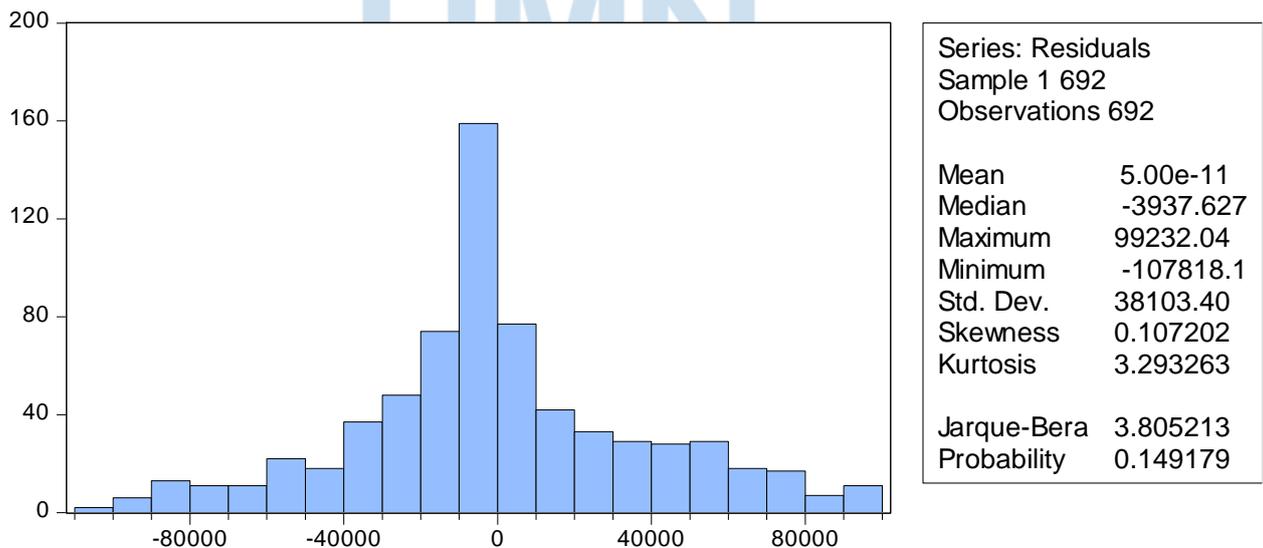
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Appendix

a. Normality Test

View > Residual Diagnostics > Histogram – Normality Test



b. Multicollinearity Test

Variance Inflation Factors
 Date: 01/27/19 Time: 13:32
 Sample: 1 692
 Included observations: 692

Variable	Coefficient Variance	Uncentered VIF	Centered VIF
C	2563962.	1.434150	NA
PTBI_T0	5.31E-05	303.6521	297.5147
LNBTD	14973054	1.231629	1.050509
LPBTD	25821681	1.301959	1.184597
PTBI_X_LN	5.45E-05	37.78460	37.67177
PTBI_X_LP	5.33E-05	266.9670	263.4233

c. Heteroskedasticity Test

Heteroskedasticity Test: White

F-statistic	16.12240	Prob. F(8,683)	0.0000
Obs*R-squared	109.9210	Prob. Chi-Square(8)	0.0000
Scaled explained SS	123.8628	Prob. Chi-Square(8)	0.0000

Prob. Chi-Square (yang kedua) = 0.0000 < 0.05 → ada heteroskedastisitas

d. Autocorrelation Test

Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:

F-statistic	1.875388	Prob. F(2,684)	0.1541
Obs*R-squared	3.773950	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.1515

e. Linearity Test

Ramsey RESET Test
 Equation: MODEL_2_NO_FAM
 Specification: PTBI_T1 C PTBI_T0 LNBTD LPBTD PTBI_X_LN PTBI_X_LP
 Omitted Variables: Powers of fitted values from 2 to 3

	Value	df	Probability
F-statistic	0.683165	(2, 684)	0.5054
Likelihood ratio	1.380932	2	0.5013