

Analysis of the Impact of AI-Based Accounting Tools on the Accuracy of Financial Reporting for SMEs in Bandar Lampung

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to analyze the influence of AI-Based Accounting Tools on the accuracy of financial statements among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Bandar Lampung, Indonesia.

Methodology/approach: This research adopts a quantitative approach using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM-PLS) with SmartPLS 4.0. The sample consists of 206 MSMEs that have adopted at least one AI-based accounting system such as Jurnal.id, Accurate, or QuickBooks.

Results/findings: The findings indicate that digital literacy and the level of technological adoption have a positive and significant effect on the effective use of AI-Based Accounting Tools, which in turn enhances the accuracy of financial reporting.

Conclusions: Meanwhile, implementation challenges, such as infrastructure and cost limitations, hinder adoption. This study provides strategic implications for policymakers and technology developers to accelerate digital transformation among MSMEs.

Limitations: Data from the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs (2023) shows that more than 70% of MSMEs in Indonesia do not yet have systematically prepared financial statements. This condition is caused by limited accounting literacy, human resources, and the low adoption of digital technology.

Contribution: This study is expected to provide both theoretical and practical contributions to the development of digital accounting literature, as well as offer recommendations for local governments and technology providers to strengthen the digital transformation ecosystem of MSMEs in Indonesia.

Keywords: *AI-Based Accounting Tools, Digital Literacy, Financial Reporting Accuracy, MSMEs, Technology Adoption*

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1. Introduction

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has transformed the paradigm of modern accounting systems. Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is now capable of replacing manual processes that previously required a lot of time and effort. The application of AI in accounting includes automated transaction recording, account classification, error detection in data input, and predictive financial data analysis. For SMEs, the presence of AI-Based Accounting Tools such as QuickBooks, Xero, Zoho Books, Accurate Online, and Jurnal.id offers great opportunities to improve the efficiency and accuracy of financial reporting. However, not all SMEs have the same ability and readiness to adopt these technologies (Hermansyah et al., 2025; Widjanarko, 2025).

Data from the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs (2023) shows that more than 70% of SMEs in Indonesia do not have systematically prepared financial reports. This condition is due to limited accounting literacy, human resources, and the low adoption of digital technology. On the other hand, government programs such as UMKM Go Digital have shown a significant increase in the number of entrepreneurs starting to use cloud-based and AI applications for financial management (Rahman, Rahayu, & Hendrayati, 2025).

A previous study Soleha, Bahira, and Sanjaya (2024), showed that the application of AI in accounting can improve the accuracy of financial reports by up to 30% compared to manual methods. However, challenges such as licensing costs, limited training, and low trust in digital systems still pose barriers to adoption at the local level. Based on this background, this study aims to answer the following key questions:

1. How does the use of AI-Based Accounting Tools impact the accuracy of financial reporting for SMEs?
2. What factors influence the effectiveness of AI-based tools in financial reporting?
3. To what extent is the adoption of AI technology among SMEs in Bandar Lampung?

This research is expected to contribute both theoretically and practically to the development of digital accounting literature and provide recommendations for local governments and technology providers to strengthen the digital transformation ecosystem for SMEs in Indonesia.

2. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

2.1. Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) was developed by Davis (1993) to explain how users accept and use technology. According to this model, two main factors influence technology acceptance: perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU). PU refers to the extent to which a person believes that using a particular system will improve their performance, while PEOU indicates how easy the system is perceived to be. In the context of this research, TAM is used to explain how SMEs' perceptions of the usefulness and ease of use of AI-Based Accounting Tools can affect their decision to adopt the technology. Several previous studies Lisyawati, Mohsen, Hidayati, & Taufik, (2023) have shown that perceptions of benefits and ease of use significantly influence the decision to adopt digital-based accounting systems (Maulana, Novalia, Sari, Rosa, & Yuliansyah, 2025).

2.2. The Concept of Artificial Intelligence in Accounting

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in accounting is defined as the ability of computer systems to mimic human thinking processes, including learning, reasoning, and decision-making (Davenport & Ronanki, 2018). In the context of financial reporting, AI can automate transaction recording, account classification, financial trend analysis, and cash flow predictions. Research by Judijanto (2024) shows that the application of AI-Based Accounting Tools can reduce recording errors by up to 25%, accelerate the financial reporting process, and improve decision-making quality. Thus, AI serves not only as a technical tool but also as a decision support system in modern accounting practices.

2.3. Digital Literacy and Technology Adoption

Digital literacy is the ability of individuals to understand, use, and evaluate digital information effectively. In the context of SMEs, digital literacy plays a crucial role in the adoption of new technologies. Research by Huda et al. (2020) emphasized that business owners with high digital literacy tend to be quicker and more confident in using AI-based systems. Low digital literacy often becomes a major obstacle in the implementation of AI-Based Accounting Tools. SME owners who do not understand application features, data security, or digital accounting processes tend to revert to manual methods. Therefore, digital literacy is identified as an important variable that influences the adoption and effectiveness of AI in accounting.

2.4. Challenges of AI Technology Implementation in the SME Sector

Although the benefits of AI technology are widely recognized, its implementation in the SME sector faces various obstacles. The main challenges include:

1. Investment costs — licensing fees and user training are still considered expensive for most SMEs (Soleha et al., 2024).
2. Limited human resources (HR) — many SMEs lack staff with adequate technical skills.
3. Digital infrastructure — limited internet connectivity and hardware become barriers in rural areas.
4. Resistance to change — some business owners are reluctant to leave manual recording systems due to habits and self-confidence (Schönberger, 2023).

These challenges indicate that the implementation of AI requires not only technological readiness but also a cultural shift within organizations and an increase in user capacity.

2.5. Research Hypothesis Development

Based on the theoretical review and previous research findings, five main hypotheses have been formulated to be tested in this study:

2.5.1. The Effect of Digital Literacy on AI Technology Adoption

Digital literacy refers to the ability of individuals or business owners to understand, evaluate, and effectively use digital technologies, including those for digital financial management. SMEs with high digital literacy tend to be more ready to adopt new technologies like AI-Based Accounting Tools because they understand the benefits and risks associated with their use. On the other hand, low digital literacy is a major barrier to decisions related to technology adoption.

Empirical studies Proietti and Magnani (2025) found that the digital literacy gap is a major barrier to AI implementation among SMEs in Italy, while research by Alzaghaf, Salah, Ayyash, Kamal Alzaghaf, And Hasan Salah (2024) showed that managerial digital literacy significantly enhances the effectiveness of AI adoption in SMEs in Palestine. This highlights that digital skills drive organizational readiness for digital transformation.

(H1): Digital literacy has a positive effect on the level of AI technology adoption by SMEs.

2.5.2. The Effect of AI Technology Adoption on Financial Report Accuracy

The adoption of AI technology in SMEs directly impacts the improvement of financial report accuracy. AI can automate the processes of recording, collecting, and analyzing financial data, which were previously heavily reliant on human effort and prone to errors. Research by Antwi, Adalakun, and Eziefula (2024); Oleimat, Oleimat, Khawaldeh, and Al-Khateeb (2025) shows that AI-based systems can improve the precision and speed of financial report preparation through anomaly detection.

Furthermore, Kamilan and Nurcholisah (2022) emphasize that AI adoption strengthens SMEs' ability to prepare accurate and efficient financial reports. However, Schönberger (2023), reminds that the success of AI adoption still depends on human resource readiness and technological investment. AI can improve data validation, enhance transaction recording, and provide strategic insights for decision-making Oyeniyi, Ugochukwu, and Mhlongo (2024); (Enholm, Papagiannidis, Mikalef, & Krogstie, 2022).

(H2): The level of AI technology adoption has a positive effect on the accuracy of financial reports for SMEs.

2.5.3. The Effect of Digital Literacy on the Use of AI-Based Accounting Tools

High digital literacy enables SME owners to understand and utilize the advanced features of AI-Based Accounting Tools, such as automatic recording, real-time transaction classification, and financial report analysis. According to Ng, (2012), digital literacy includes technical, cognitive, and socio-emotional aspects that support successful technology adoption. Studies by Huda et al. (2020); Dwivedi et al. (2021) show that SME owners with high digital literacy adapt more quickly to AI-based systems, improving financial reporting efficiency and reliability. Meanwhile, Lisyawati et al. (2023) prove that digital literacy allows business owners to manage digital accounting systems independently without relying on third parties.

(H3): Digital literacy of SME owners has a positive effect on the effectiveness of AI-Based Accounting Tools usage.

2.5.4. The Effect of Implementation Challenges on the Use of AI-Based Accounting Tools

AI implementation among SMEs is often hindered by limitations in infrastructure, human resources, and technical support. These limitations can obstruct AI adoption and reduce its effectiveness in accounting systems. Zhang and Peng (2025) shows that a lack of infrastructure and workforce skills are significant barriers to AI technology implementation. Similarly, Schönberger (2023), emphasizes that limited access to advanced technologies and a lack of financial support slow down AI integration in SMEs. Research by Agustono, Nugroho, and Fianto (2023) highlights that AI success depends on trained workforce competence. Meanwhile (Zinke-Wehlmann & Friedrich, 2024) found that a lack of technical infrastructure and skilled HR directly impacts the operational efficiency of AI-based SMEs.

(H4): Implementation challenges have a significant effect on the use of AI-Based Accounting Tools.

2.5.5. The Effect of AI-Based Accounting Tools Usage on Financial Report Accuracy

AI-Based Accounting Tools, such as QuickBooks, Jurnal.id, and Accurate Online, are designed to automate accounting processes, reduce human error, and ensure financial data consistency. According to Davenport and Ronanki (2018), AI implementation in accounting can result in more accurate and reliable financial reports. Research by Yusuf, Sari, Hamid, and Garusu (2023) proves that AI implementation speeds up financial reporting and enhances digital auditing capabilities. Furthermore, Al-Qudah and Houcine (2022); Wiranata, Teguh, Ferdian, Wongso, and Malelak (2025) found that AI usage significantly improves the efficiency and accuracy of transaction recording.

(H5): The use of AI-Based Accounting Tools has a positive and significant effect on the accuracy of financial reports for SMEs.

2.5.6. The Effect of Implementation Challenges on Financial Report Accuracy

AI implementation challenges, such as infrastructure limitations, costs, and resistance to change, can directly impact the accuracy of financial reports. These limitations often hinder automation, slow down reporting, and reduce the validity of financial data. Research by Proietti and Magnani (2025); Adeyelu, Ugochukwu, and Shonibare (2024) shows that a lack of digital infrastructure and workforce skills are major factors that reduce AI effectiveness in improving financial report accuracy. The higher the implementation challenges faced, the lower the accuracy of the financial reports produced.

(H6): Implementation challenges have a direct effect on the accuracy of financial reports.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Type and Approach

This study uses a quantitative approach with a survey method, aiming to analyze the relationship between digital literacy, technology adoption levels, implementation challenges, and the accuracy of SME financial reports. The quantitative approach is chosen because it allows for objective measurement of the relationships between latent variables using numerical data, which is then analyzed statistically (Creswell, 2009). This study is classified as explanatory research, which explains the causal relationship between the research variables by testing the hypotheses formulated earlier.

3.2. Population and Sample

The population in this study is all Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) located in Bandar Lampung City. According to data from the Department of Cooperatives and SMEs of Bandar Lampung City in 2024, there are over 21,000 active SMEs across various sectors. The sample for this study is determined using purposive sampling with the following criteria:

1. The SME has been operational for at least 1 year.
2. The SME has used at least one AI-based digital accounting application (such as Jurnal.id, Accurate, QuickBooks, or Zoho Books).
3. The SME is willing to complete the research questionnaire.

The number of respondents meeting the criteria is 206 SMEs, which is considered sufficient for Partial Least Squares (PLS) analysis, in accordance with the recommendation Hair, Black, Babin, and Anderson (2013) that the minimum sample size should be 10 times the maximum number of structural paths in the research model.

3.3. Data Type and Sources

The data used in this study are primary data obtained directly from respondents through online questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Secondary data are also used as additional references, such as annual reports from the Department of Cooperatives and SMEs, scholarly publications, and documentation of SME use of digital accounting applications.

3.4. Data Collection Techniques

- Data collection methods include:
- Questionnaire: Using a 1–5 Likert scale to measure respondents' perceptions of each variable.
- Interviews: Conducted with 206 SME owners to gain deeper insights into the findings from the questionnaires.
- Documentation: Collecting evidence of the use of AI applications in transaction recording and financial reporting.

3.5. Research Variable Operationalization

This study consists of four latent variables, namely Digital Literacy (LD), Implementation Challenges (IC), Use of AI-Based Accounting Tools (AI), and Accuracy of Financial Reports (AFR).

Table 1. Operationalization of Research Variables

Variable	Indicator	Source	Scala
Digital Literacy (LD)	Ability to use accounting applications, understanding of data security, digital information evaluation, effective digital communication	Huda et al. (2020) Lisyawati et al. (2023)	Likert 1–5
Implementation Challenges (IC)	Usage costs, limitations of HR, resistance to technology, digital infrastructure	(Schönberger, 2023)	Likert 1–5
Use of AI-Based Accounting Tools (AI)	Frequency of use, system integration, automation features, ease of access to financial data	Judijanto (2024) Soleha et al. (2024)	Likert 1–5
Accuracy of Financial Reports (AFR)	Timeliness of reports, data consistency, input errors, transaction validity	(Davenport & Ronanki, 2018)	Likert 1–5

3.6. Research Model and Data Analysis

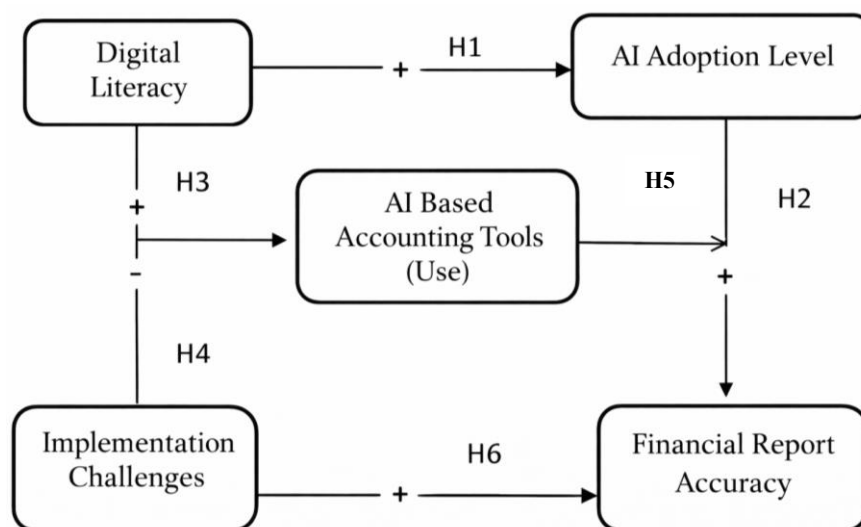


Figure 1. Research Model

Data analysis is conducted using Partial Least Squares (PLS) through SmartPLS 4.0 software, with the following stages:

1. Outer Model Test

- Convergent validity through loading factor (>0.70).
- Discriminant validity through cross-loading and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) (>0.50).
- Construct reliability through Composite Reliability (CR) value (>0.70).

2. Inner Model Test

- Assessing the relationships between latent variables through path coefficients and t-statistics.
- R^2 value is used to assess the predictive power of the model.

3. Hypothesis Significance Test

- A t-statistic value > 1.96 and a p-value < 0.05 indicate a significant relationship.

3.7. Statistical Analysis Techniques

The analysis is performed in three main stages:

- **Stage 1:** Descriptive analysis to describe respondent characteristics and the level of AI adoption.
- **Stage 2:** Measurement model analysis (outer model) to test the validity and reliability of constructs.
- **Stage 3:** Structural model analysis (inner model) to test the direct and indirect effects between variables as per the hypotheses.

PLS method is chosen because it is predictive-oriented and can be used for complex models with relatively small sample sizes (Hair et al., 2013).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Respondent Profile

The respondents in this study consisted of 206 SME owners in Bandar Lampung City. The majority (46%) operate in the food and beverage sector, followed by fashion (28%), services (14%), and crafts (12%). Most businesses have been operational for 3–5 years, and 62% have used AI-based accounting applications such as Jurnal.id and Accurate Online. Approximately 68% of the respondents have at least a high school education, and 42% of them have more than 3 years of experience in digital financial management. This data indicates that most SME owners have started adopting digital technology, but there is still variation in digital literacy levels and the operational capabilities of AI tools.

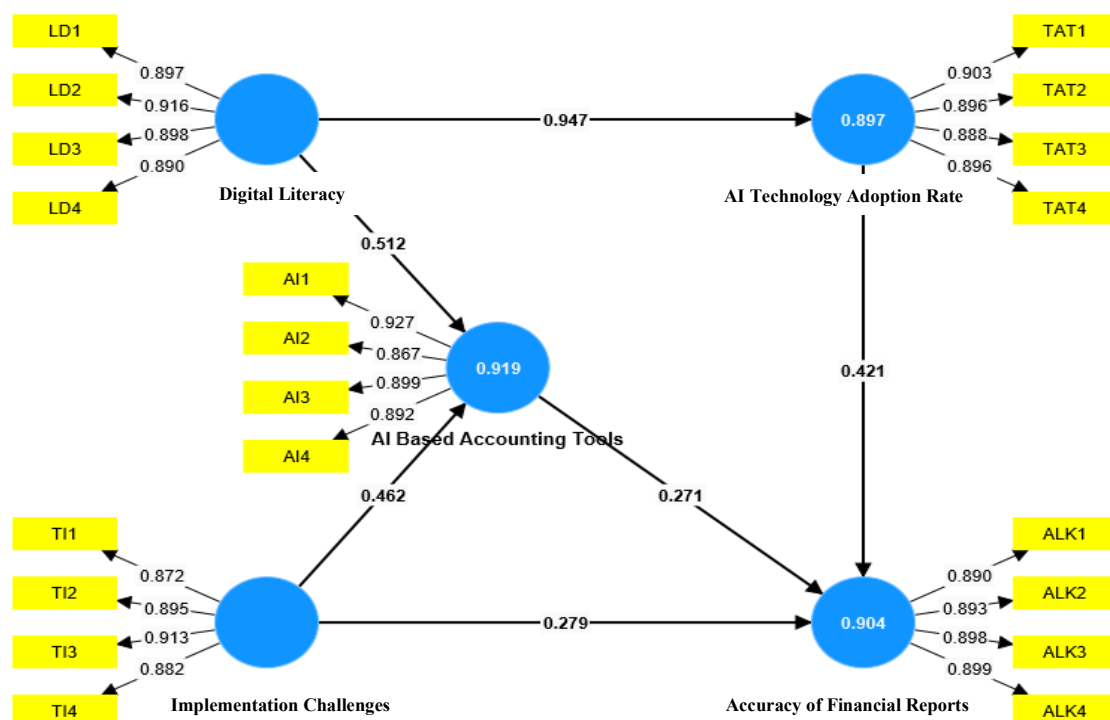


Figure 2. Outer Model

4.2. Validity Test:

Convergent validity is assessed based on the loading factor. If the loading factor reaches a value of 0.7 or higher, the indicator is considered to have a high level of validity concerning the associated construct or latent variable. The results of this validity test were obtained from data collected through the distribution of questionnaires to one hundred and two research participants.

Table 2. Validity Test Loading Factor

Code	AI Based Accounting Tools	Financial Report Accuracy	Digital Literacy	Implementation Challenges	AI Technology Adoption Level
AI1	0,927				
AI2	0,867				
AI3	0,899				
AI4	0,892				
ALK1		0,890			
ALK2		0,893			
ALK3		0,898			
ALK4		0,899			
LD1			0,897		
LD2			0,916		
LD3			0,898		
LD4			0,890		
TAT1				0,872	
TAT2				0,895	
TAT3				0,913	
TAT4				0,882	
TI1					0,903
TI2					0,896
TI3					0,888
TI4					0,896

The results in the table above can be concluded that all statement indicators are considered accurate because the loading factor values obtained are ≥ 0.60 . Therefore, the model evaluation process can proceed. The next step is to conduct the AVE test, where the required AVE value is > 0.50 . Below is the AVE calculation:

Table 3. Average Variance Extracted (AVE) Validity Test

Variable	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho _a)	Composite reliability (rho _c)	Average variance extracted (AVE)
AI-Based Accounting Tools	0,919	0,920	0,943	0,804
Financial Report Accuracy	0,917	0,918	0,942	0,801
Digital Literacy	0,922	0,923	0,945	0,810
Implementation Challenges	0,913	0,914	0,939	0,793
AI Technology Adoption Level	0,918	0,918	0,942	0,802

The AVE values for each research variable are shown in the table above. Since they meet the minimum requirements, particularly the AVE value > 0.5 , it can be concluded that the AVE testing has been fulfilled.

4.3. Reliability Test

Table 8. Reliability Test

Variable	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho a)	Composite reliability (rho c)	Average variance extracted (AVE)
AI Based Accounting Tools	0,919	0,920	0,943	0,804
Financial Report Accuracy	0,917	0,918	0,942	0,801
Digital Literacy	0,922	0,923	0,945	0,810
Implementation Challenges	0,913	0,914	0,939	0,793
AI Technology Adoption Level	0,918	0,918	0,942	0,802

The results of the reliability test show that both the composite reliability value and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient exceed 0.7. Therefore, it can be asserted that these research variables have a high level of accuracy in determining their status as research variables, as they have proven to be reliable and trustworthy.

4.4. Inner Model Testing Results

In SEM analysis, the impact analysis of determination is used to determine how much contribution the exogenous variables make to the endogenous variables. R square is determined by the coefficient of determination (R²), which essentially shows the extent to which the model can explain the variation of the endogenous variables.

Table 4. Coefficient of Determination (R-Square) Test

Variable	R-square	R-square adjusted
AI Based Accounting Tools	0,919	0,918
Financial Report Accuracy	0,904	0,902
AI Technology Adoption Level	0,897	0,897

Based on the results of the structural model testing, the R-square values obtained for the AI-Based Accounting Tools construct were 0.919; Financial Report Accuracy was 0.904; and AI Technology Adoption Level was 0.897. This indicates that the independent variables in the model have a very strong ability to explain the dependent variables. The adjusted R-square value, which is relatively close to the R-square, indicates that the model has good stability and does not experience overfitting issues. Therefore, this research model has high predictive power and can be trusted to explain the relationships between the variables under study.

4.5. Hypothesis Testing Results (Path Coefficient)

Table 5. Direct Hypothesis Testing

Variable	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	T statistics (O/STDEV)	P values
AI-Based Accounting Tools -> Financial Report Accuracy	0,271	0,271	0,077	3,535	0,000
Digital Literacy -> AI-Based Accounting Tools	0,512	0,515	0,058	8,857	0,000
Digital Literacy -> AI Technology Adoption Level	0,947	0,946	0,011	90,153	0,000
Implementation Challenges -> AI-Based Accounting Tools	0,462	0,458	0,059	7,848	0,000
Implementation Challenges -> Financial Report Accuracy	0,279	0,280	0,082	3,400	0,001

AI Technology Adoption Level -> Financial Report Accuracy	0,421	0,419	0,071	5,910	0,000
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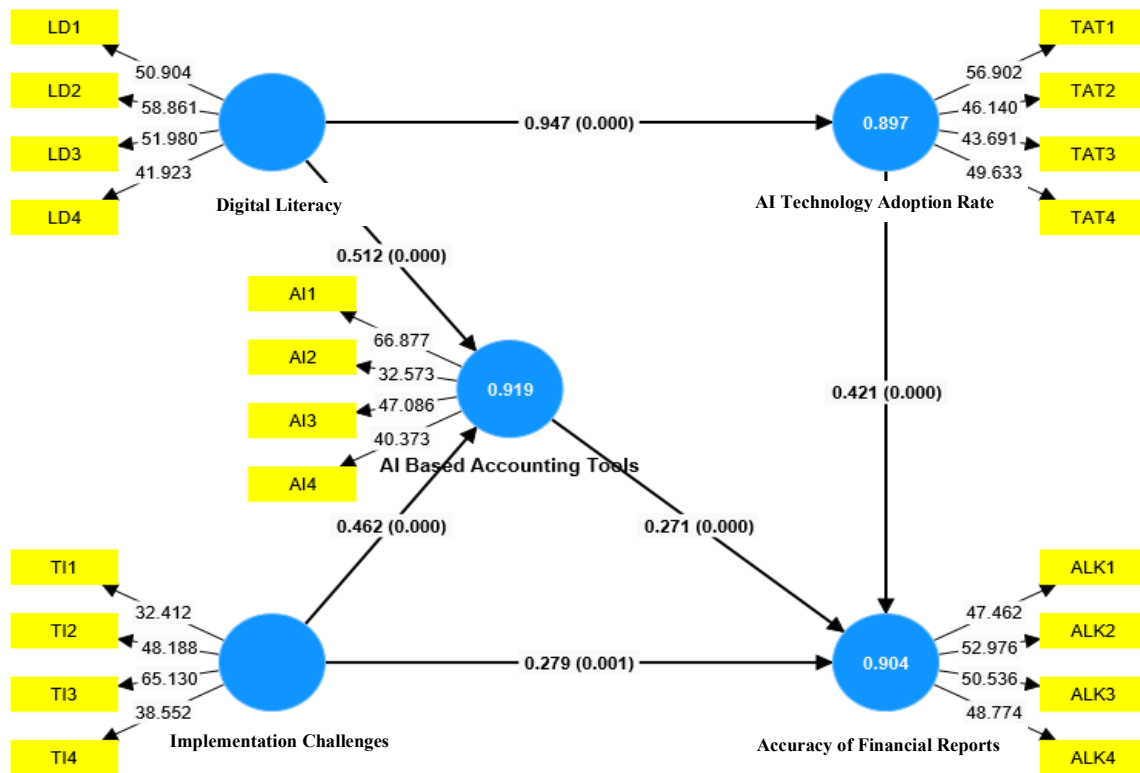


Figure 3. Model Struktural Hasil SmartPLS

4.5.1. Hypothesis 1

Digital Literacy → AI Technology Adoption Level ($\beta = 0.947$; $p = 0.000$)

The very high coefficient value indicates that digital literacy is a dominant factor in increasing the level of AI technology adoption. Individuals with strong digital skills are more likely to accept and implement AI technology in their professional activities, so it can be concluded that Hypothesis 1 is accepted.

4.5.2. Hypothesis 2

Digital Literacy → AI Technology Adoption Level ($\beta = 0.947$; $p = 0.000$)

The very high coefficient value indicates that digital literacy is a dominant factor in increasing the level of AI technology adoption. Individuals with strong digital skills are more likely to accept and implement AI technology in their professional activities, so it can be concluded that Hypothesis 2 is accepted.

4.5.3. Hypothesis 3

Digital Literacy → AI-Based Accounting Tools ($\beta = 0.512$; $p = 0.000$)

Digital literacy has a significant positive effect on the use of AI-based accounting tools. This means that the higher the digital skills of accountants or users, the greater their tendency to utilize AI-based accounting tools, so it can be concluded that Hypothesis 3 is accepted.

4.5.4. Hypothesis 4

Implementation Challenges → AI-Based Accounting Tools ($\beta = 0.462$; $p = 0.000$)

Although "implementation challenges" are typically viewed as obstacles, these results show a positive relationship. This can be interpreted as indicating that the greater the challenges faced, the higher the organizational drive to develop or optimize the use of AI-based accounting tools, for example, through training or technological innovation, so it can be concluded that Hypothesis 4 is accepted.

4.5.5. Hypothesis 5

AI-Based Accounting Tools → Financial Report Accuracy ($\beta = 0.271$; $p = 0.000$)

These results show that the use of AI-based accounting tools has a positive and significant effect on financial report accuracy. The higher the application of AI technology in the accounting process, the greater the accuracy and reliability of the financial reports produced, so it can be concluded that Hypothesis 5 is accepted.

4.5.6. Hypothesis 6

Implementation Challenges → Financial Report Accuracy ($\beta = 0.279$; $p = 0.001$)

Implementation challenges have a positive and significant effect on financial report accuracy. This indicates that facing implementation challenges (such as limited HR, costs, or infrastructure) can drive improvements in system effectiveness, which ultimately contributes to enhanced report accuracy, so it can be concluded that Hypothesis 6 is accepted.

5. Conclusions

5.1. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis results and structural model testing (SEM-PLS), this study concludes that digital literacy, implementation challenges, and the use of AI-Based Accounting Tools have a significant effect on the financial report accuracy of SMEs in Bandar Lampung. Digital literacy proves to be the main factor in the successful adoption of AI-based accounting technology. The higher the digital skills of SME owners, the greater the effectiveness of using automated accounting systems.

Implementation challenges are not absolute barriers; rather, they serve as drivers for some SMEs to innovate and adapt. Obstacles such as limited funds and human resources motivate business owners to seek solutions, such as attending digital training and utilizing cloud-based applications. The use of AI-Based Accounting Tools strongly influences financial report accuracy, improving the precision, efficiency, and transparency of financial reports.

Implementation challenges also have an indirect effect on financial report accuracy through the use of AI tools, highlighting the importance of organizational readiness and external support in accounting digitization. The research model has very strong predictive validity with R^2 values of 0.919, 0.904, and 0.897, meaning that more than 89% of the variation in AI tool usage and financial report accuracy can be explained by the tested variables.

5.2. Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that SMEs prioritize enhancing digital literacy through targeted training programs to ensure effective adoption of AI-based accounting tools. Overcoming implementation challenges can be achieved by simplifying interfaces and providing ongoing support to ease integration. SMEs should also invest in robust technology infrastructure to fully utilize the potential of AI tools for accurate financial reporting. Additionally, government incentives and affordable, scalable solutions from industry players can further encourage adoption. Finally, SMEs should focus on long-term integration strategies, ensuring that AI tools are continuously updated and aligned with evolving business needs. By following these steps, SMEs can improve financial reporting accuracy and contribute to greater business efficiency and sustainability.

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