

Elena Mazzotta – Scambusting + Investigation

This is the history and results of a scam investigation performed against “Elena Mazzotta”, with the help of a bogus translation job.

1. History

On August 19, 2015 we received an email from elena.mazzotta.translation@gmail.com where **Elena Mazzotta** claims to be “*Elena Mazzotta from Italy. I am a translator specialized in Technical & Marketing and have a good experience in other fields such as Legal, Medical, Financial and others*” [Technical, Marketing, Legal, Medical, Financial, and others ? Actually, she has experience in any and all fields]. The email has a CV attached as *Elena Mazzotta.docx* where “she” also claims to be “*Italian: Mothertongue*” and “*English: Excellent*”. The whole email and CV are in English. Well, OK, she’s “Italian”, but she prefers to talk to an Italian company in English...

Noticing that Eleonora Mazzotta is already listed in the Translator Scammers Directory as **Eleonora Mazzotta (Scammer)** – eleonora.mazzotta20@gmail.com (scammer’s email) – Eleonora Mazzotta (IT) (victim), we started digging in what we had on our desk:

1. The CV received *Elena Mazzotta.docx* (author: Amoon / Last saved by “nmc”) is actually an impersonation of Eleonora Mazzotta (www.translatorscafe.com/cafe/IT/member109426.htm) with modified name, street address and email address, phone number, and added phone number + fully copied CV from Michela Renna (www.translatorscafe.com/cafe/IT/member79922.htm).
2. The CV shows 2 email addresses: elena.mazzotta@hotmail.com and elenamazzotta67@gmail.com (together with the sender’s email elena.mazzotta.translation@gmail.com we therefore have 3 email addresses...!).
3. The physical address stated on “Elena’s” CV is “Via Roaschia **21** Chieri TO”, while the real translator Eleonora Mazzotta lives in Via Roaschia **41** Chieri TO.
4. The phone number stated on “Elena’s” CV is +39 347 6935528 which is the **real mobile number** of real translator Michela Renna.
5. The VAT number stated on “Elena’s” CV 07097791045 is **invalid/nonexistent**.
6. Google search for “*Elena Mazzotta translator*” gives **Translator Scammers Directory** results. No “Elena Mazzotta” profiles in ProZ or Translators Café!
7. **Elena Mazzotta is a ghost created by scammers...**

On Thursday, January 07, 2016 5:52 PM, we sent an availability check and quotation request for an English to Italian document translation (our email was in Italian) and receive an interested reply (in English), with a final quotation of 390.- Euros for the translation of the 5577 word document supplied, delivery in 4 days.

On the same day Thursday, January 07, 2016 11:41 PM, we decided to confirm the job via email (in Italian). For such a small job we can’t ask to receive a sample translation in order to see whether it’s Google translated or the scammer(s) is/are also scamming some other translator on the other side.

On Thursday, January 07, 2016 11:36 PM we received a confirmation email from elanamazzotta67@gmail.com (again in English) where she takes up the job and asks ***“P.S Payment must be done via PayPal, hope that is okay with you?!”*** signing the email as “Dina” [she probably forgot she was corresponding as Elena...].

Our happy scammer “Elena Mazzotta” delivers the translated file on 13/01/2016 with a delivery email in (always) English. First pages well-translated, but after a few pages **the quality turns into a Google translated document**. She also sends her invoice *invoice52.pdf*, showing Author: nh. The invoice number is #052 (**52 !!?? What a prolific scammer, being Jan 13!**) and payment requested via PayPal to qudlily.oftrans@gmail.com .

We asked to have the invoice with our Company data as customer (providing them – in any case they are public on our website). And with her full name (Elena Mazzotta) and/or company name, registered address and VAT code. Our email is always in Italian, and we ask her **why she continues corresponding in English, being Italian and discussing with an Italian Company...**

Here comes a second invoice, where payment is always requested via PayPal to qudlily.oftrans@gmail.com , and “her” data as “Elena Mazzotta – Via Roaschia **25** Chieri TO – VAT No. 070977910791”. **Hey, a new door number and a new VAT No, always invalid/nonexistent** (and with 12 numbers?). She tells us in her email that ***“About our conversations, I talk with all my clients with English language even if they are Italian, because of a lot of reasons such that to find my emails easily when I need to search about anything, to improve my English language and a lot of things that make my works easier”*** showing with her lame excuse and wording that not only she can’t correspond in Italian, or even in proper English...

On Thursday, January 14, 2016 11:11 AM, we replied that we still don’t understand why she insists in corresponding in English since we are writing to “her” in Italian. We also asked why the VAT number appears to be invalid...

On Thursday, January 14, 2016 11:19 AM she replies with ***“Actually, I don't know if the VAT number is valid or not because it is for my friend. I don't have VAT number since my income is too little to have a one. I think you will pay me via PayPal, so you don't need to VAT number. Hope that everything will going well with us. Regards, Elena”*** [Actually everything “will going” ... bad with us, Elena...].

On Thursday, January 14, 2016 11:42 AM we replied (in Italian, yes we’re so bad...) that **sending an invoice with somebody else’s VAT is illegal in Italy, and that the VAT No. is not “her friend’s one” since it’s invalid/nonexistent**.

On Thursday, January 14, 2016 12:21 PM she replies (always in English – or something englishized) ***“Actually I work with a several companies (Italian and others) and they didn't talk with me about VAT number. I didn't care about VAT number since my income is little and I don't have a one. I want my money, so please don't speak with me about VAT number. I was very collaborator with you, you should be collaborator with me”***. Well, her income is little but her intelligence isn’t bigger.

We replied that providing a VAT No on her CV means that she knows what VAT is and that she’s playing with us. Additionally, it appears that even the VAT on her CV is invalid! We told her that we investigated a bit further and discovered that in Via Roaschia **21** Chieri TO there’s nobody with the name **Elena** Mazzotta, but a translator named **Eleonora** Mazzotta does live in Via Roaschia **41**

Chieri TO. **We also told her that this is impersonation, identity theft, and providing fake invoices and data...**

Silence for a couple days. We thought she decided to disappear, accepting that she's been busted. Heck, no, it appears that the mother of idiots/scammers is always pregnant.

On Sunday, January 17, 2016 5:50 PM she pops up with another email: ***“You are speaking with me about many things that you didn't have the right to talk about it with me. You have the right just to talk about my translation which I do it for you and you don't have the right to discuss anything else with me. I was worked with a lot of companies and they all paid me and send to me a lot of projects because of my professional work. It seems that you will not pay me my money! If you will do that, then you are unfaithful company and I will talk about your company to thousands of translators to tell them not to deal with you and I will publish that on the internet. Hope all of that will not happen if you will be positive with me!”***.

We replied that we showed her that we know she is an impersonator and a scammer, providing fake invoices. We told her that she has been busted and will not be paid.

End of the game at this point, and we are ready to ignore further rants.

Ladies and Gentlemen, great news: something very rare for this kind of scamming attempts: on Monday, January 18, 2016 2:30 PM **the phone rings**.

The incoming call display shows a landline number 0565/XXXXXXX which is Piombino (Livorno). We reply and hear a man's voice that just mutters the name of our Marketing Manager, clearly showing he's neither Italian nor English (undetected accent). We try asking who's speaking (in English), and the reply is something like ***“Lenn Mazùt”***. Hopefully, the speakerphone function was activated, so that three of us were listening to the male's voice muttering that ***“Lenn Mazùt”*** in reply to our *“We don't understand, please repeat who are you?”* Finally, one of us smiles and whispers to us *“He's saying he is Elena Mazzotta!”* Incredible! We asked in plain slow English *“Are you Elena Mazzotta?”* and his reply ***“Yes, I Lenn Mazùt”***. We hear at this point a female voice near him repeating ***“Elena Mazzotta, Elena Mazzotta!”***. Wow, we have both the bad boy and the bad girl together! We asked to speak with Elena Mazzotta, telling him that he can't be Elena, and we clearly heard a female voice there. The female voice takes the phone and accepts the conversation with a more understandable ***“I am Elena Mazzotta”***. We reply with a sarcastic (but I think they didn't get the tone) *“How can we help you?”* and she replies with ***“I want be paid for my job I done for you”***. We then tried and asked her to speak Italian and she stops us with ***“No, I only English”***. ***“Well then – we replied – do you understand that it is clear you are not Italian, and also you are not English; that you provided a CV impersonating two legit/real translators, that you provided a fake invoice and two fake VAT numbers? You will not be paid”***. Then, she (always gentle, we must say) replied: ***“I want be paid, or I speak bad of you with thousand translators”***. Here we are with the usual threats. *“Please feel free to do so, you are a scammer and an impersonator, we know you will”*. But here comes the male voice mumbling ***“I hacking your site and hacking your email”***. One of us replies with a rude *“You are a scammer and you will not be paid, we don't want to talk with you”*. He mumbles ***“I use your email for contact with translators, you will pay from this”*** and hangs up...

In the next hour we received 4 phone calls from the same number, but nobody speaks/replies. A quick search for the landline number resulted in a Pizzeria/Restaurant in Piombino (Livorno, Italy). Did they go for a pizza and used the local phone to call in order not to be identified?

2. Results of the Scambusting + Investigation

a) We had the scammer sweating to provide the translation, discuss and working “hard” to have her/his/their lies accepted.

b) We have three emails used by the scammer so far:

- elena.mazzotta.translation@gmail.com ,
- elena.mazzotta@hotmail.com ,
- elenamazzotta67@gmail.com

c) We have a CV where we can see that “she” impersonates (using legit CVs’ info) at least 2 translators:

Ms. Eleonora Mazzotta, Translators Café profile:

www.translatorscafe.com/cafe/IT/member109426.htm

Ms. Michela Renna, Translators Café profile:

www.translatorscafe.com/cafe/member79922.htm

d) We have one PayPal address used by the scammer to get paid:

- qudliily.oftrans@gmail.com

e) The CV last saved by “nmc” shows that these scammers are linked to CVs used, as per www.translator-scammers.com/translator-scammers-info.htm , by a Gaza scamming ring using the names Translation Secrets, Languagemet, MuchDo, etc.

f) We have proof that these scammers have connections in Italy, even though not for a long time, as it appears they don’t speak a single word of Italian. But this also means that they can “travel” (translation scams provide enough money to travel here and there, and to eat pizza somewhere).