

# LYING THROUGH THEIR TEETH

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Identifying translator scams

# UNITED BANK AFRICA

user@cpkorus.com

To: NDADDRESS

**THE DIRECTOR,  
INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE DEPT,  
UNITED BANK AFRICA (UBA),  
LAGOS- NIGERIA.**

SIR,

**RE : PAYMENT ON ACCRUED INTEREST OF US\$3.5M.**

I am the Executive Director and Head of Swift Transfer Unit of Foreign Payment Clearing of UNITED BANK AFRICA Plc. Sometime ago in our bank your Long Over-due contract fund was brought to our bank from the Apex Bank, Central Bank of Nigeria (C.B.N.) and after some period, this money was taken back to the Federal Government Treasury for the period of time this money was in our bank, it generated an interest of US\$3.5 Million which we are about to be paid to you either via Universal ATM CARD or Bank to Bank Wire Transfer you have to choose any of the mentioned mode of payment you want.

For your information and advice, you need to hasten up to pick up this fund because of the just concluded Presidential election, the CBN new auditors are likely to be in our Bank to cross-check our files and our financial updates the earlier you comply with the demands of the delivery/Release of the fund, the faster the action because the CBN Officials want the accrued interest to be paid to them but we refused. So when they find out that this interest fund is still in our bank they will want to call back the money to the Federal Government treasury.

What we need from you now is any form of your identification for example: your International Passport or your driver's license, then your telephone and fax number for easy communication with your mailing address where this ATM card will be delivered to you or your banking details for direct wire transfer.

As a matter of fact, we don't have enough time to waste since we have wasted time in contacting our respective customers, so try and comply with the entire necessary requirement for remittance.

Expecting your immediate response by email.

**Yours Sincerely,**

**M/S. Angela Aneke .  
Director, UNITED BANK AFRICA Plc.**

Reply Reply All Forward

# OVERVIEW

- Statistics
- Freelancers
  - Identifying scammers
  - Tactics scammers use
  - Ensuring you don't fall prey
- LSPs
  - Tactics scammers use
  - Identifying scammers
  - Ensuring you don't fall prey
- Fighting Back
- Samples

# STATISTICS

- September 11, 2015: **3,822** scammers using **10,024** different e-mail addresses
  - Translator Scammers Directory
- 2014 LSP Survey by J.R. Dias – 315 respondents
- 86% knew of the distribution of fake CVs, **14% were not aware a CV scam existed**
- Reporting fake CVs: 18% yes, 32% sometimes, **50% of respondents never reported the receipt of a fake CV**

# FOR THE FREELANCER – IDENTIFYING

- **Posing as an agency, using public domain**
- Mismatching name and e-mail username
- Different “Reply-to” than “From” line
- Originally sent to “Bcc”
- CV Marketers or promoters
- **“Independent Project Manager”**
- Falsely identifying source of contact information
- Use of improper grammar
- Requesting Language Pair Information
- Lack of multiple means of contact
- Lack addressing the recipient directly
- No project specifications

# FOR THE FREELANCER – TACTICS USED

## Relating to practices

- No payment
- Overpayment (more elaborate)

## Other scams to be cognizant of

- CV Theft
- Request proof of Identification

# FOR THE FREELANCER

## Ensuring you don't fall prey

- Verify the IP Address
- Responding to a suspected scammer
  - “I don't believe I've ever heard from your company before -- did someone refer you to me?”
- Check <http://translationethics.blogspot.se/p/blog-page.html>
- Check <http://www.translator-scammers.com/>

## Ensuring you don't get confused for a scammer

- No grammatical or typographical errors
- Consistent contact information on Networking and websites
- Post CV in secured PDF format

# FOR LANGUAGE SERVICE PROVIDERS - TACTICS

- Deliver nothing
- Deliver poor quality
- Modify contact information on CVs of qualified, legitimate translators
- Offer bottom-of-the-barrel rates
- Unsuspecting PMs verify credentials on the legitimate translator's profile or website and use the contact information on the fraudulent CV.
- The scammer accepts the project, runs it through a public Machine Translator to translate it without post-editing.
- The scammer is paid for invoiced work and disappears before his fraud is revealed.



# FOR THE LSP - IDENTIFYING

- To and From language pairs
- Language pairs that do not match their geographic location
  - (don't buy English to Norwegian from Bangladesh)
- Missing contact information / e-mail only
- Incorrect spelling / grammar / language register
- Check document properties and make sure names match
- Look for consistent contact information
  - Translator's Café
  - Proz
  - ATA Directory
  - Regional Chapter Directory
  - Personal website

# FOR THE LSP

## Ensuring you don't fall prey

- Verify the IP Address
- Contact the translator you would like to work with via contact information from a different source.
- Responding to a suspected scammer
  - “I received your CV and I’m wondering if you’re available to...”
- Check <http://www.translator-scammers.com/>

## Ensuring you don't get confused for a scammer



- No grammatical or typographical errors
- Contact individual translators directly and no mass Bcc e-mails
- Project specifics - subject matter and language pairs match the abilities of the provider.

# FIGHTING BACK

- Reply to their e-mails

## English/French Translation Service

from Oscar Herbet on Sep 04 03:01 AM

 **oscarherbet1@gmail.com** Sep 04 03:01 AM ( 7 days ago ) 

Split as new Ticket

To : < >

Hello,

*My name is Oscar Herbet. I am a professional translator in the French-English/English-French.*

*I worked in translation with over 12years of experience. My translation includes documents in medical, religious, scientific, fiction and non-fiction literature, and legal documentation, etc. My translation work is always professional and accurate.*

*I have and actively use Trados 2007 and Trados 2011. My rate is EUR 0.08 per source word.*

*I am look forward to working with you in the future.*

Thanks,

**Oscar Herbet**


Attachments:

[CV Oscar Herbet New.pdf](#)

 [Download](#)

# FIGHTING BACK

- Reply to their e-mails

 **Joseph Wojowski** < > Sep 04 11:51 AM

To : oscarherbet1@gmail.com  
Cc : <




Hello Oscar,  
Thank you for applying. Could you please tell me why you are working with antiquated translation memory software? We use both SDL Studio 2015 and MemoQ 2015 here and prefer to collaborate with translators who stay on top of the latest technology. What Machine Translation engine do you use? Moreover, I would like to know whose CV you stole, whose credentials you are trying to pass off as your own. How stupid do you think I am that I would fall for your scam? Please look me up. I have written about frauds like you on my blog and I am presenting a talk about low-lives like you at a conference later this month. You're a disgrace to humanity.

My suggestion to you: find a new hobby because legitimate, hard-working translators are hip to your jive and you won't be able to pull off your scam for much longer.

--  
**Joseph Wojowski**  
Director of Operations

----- On Fri, 4 Sep 2015 03:01:03 -0600 [oscarherbet1@gmail.com](mailto:oscarherbet1@gmail.com) wrote -----

—show quoted text—

 Reply  Reply All  Forward

# FIGHTING BACK

- Get pro-active: flood the scammers' inboxes
  - <http://www.translator-scammers.com/translator-scammers-fightback.htm>
- Share the email and fraudulent CV on social media – no need to redact, they are crooks.
- Forward the fraudulent email and CV to [translator.scammers@gmail.com](mailto:translator.scammers@gmail.com) or [mail@translator-scammers.com](mailto:mail@translator-scammers.com)

Samples

# FREELANCE TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS

## Alberto Jones

Public domain e-mail address

Lack of direct address to the recipient

No project specifications

Language Pairs

Errant grammar

IP Address: 209.85.218.68

**Mountain View, CA – Google**

## Translator Needed

From [fadds139@gmail.com](mailto:fadds139@gmail.com) >

To [Joseph Wojowski](#) >

Hello,

My name is Alberto, I got your contact from online forum on google that you could help me translate an article. But I'm not sure what your language combination was perhaps you could state it for me.

I hope to hear back from you Asap!!

Wish you have a nice day.

Alberto Jones.

## Mark Edels

Only one method of contact

Bcc

From address vs. Reply-to address

Public Domain in Reply-to

IP Address: 173.201.193.184

**Scottsdale, AZ – GoDaddy.com**

Language Pairs

Errant grammar

<http://www.comfortinghome.com/>

## Excellent Translator

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From [szayas@comfortinghome.com](mailto:szayas@comfortinghome.com) >

To [Undisclosed recipients:](#) ;

Reply-To [mark.edels@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.edels@yahoo.com) >

Good Day

My Name is Mark from Kansas, I come across your translation advert on online forum that you are an excellent translator, I guess you would have worker for them. I will like you to translate an article for me, but first i need to know your language combination because it was not stated. I will be very happy if you can reply my e mail ASAP.

Thank You

Mark



## Jimmy Mapp

Errant spelling / grammar

Bcc

Undisclosed source of contact information

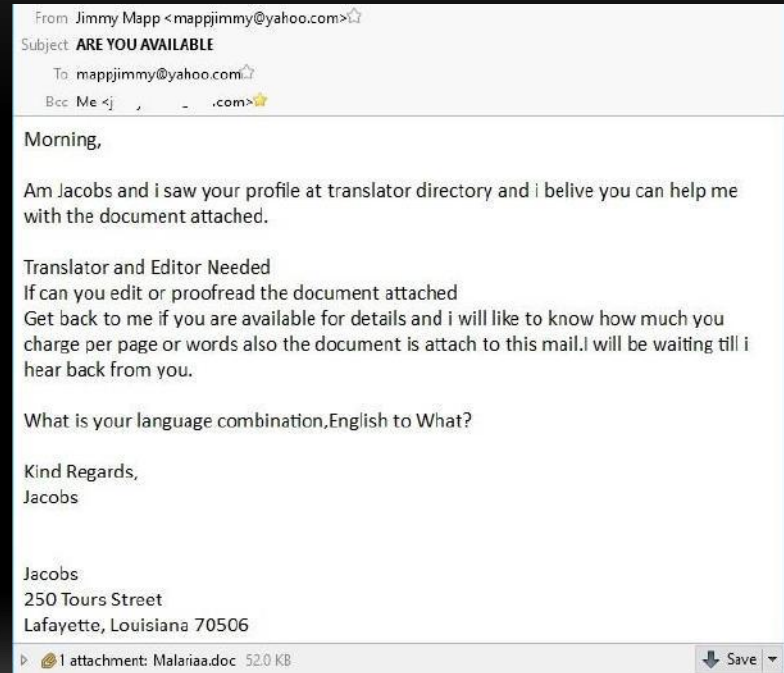
Unknown language pairs

“Translator and Editor Needed”

“If can you edit or proofread...”

Mismatched name and username

Public domain



Samples

# LANGUAGE SERVICE PROVIDER SCAMMERS

Zahrawi

Bottom-of-the-barrel rate

Translator in Morocco for SWE>ENG

Improper spelling / grammar

T .com

Dear Joe Wojowski,

You have been sent a message from your T .com page by Zahrawi. Re: [Swedish into English translator](#).

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Hello,

Offer you 0.02\$ per word.

Thnaks

Zahrawi

Sender Address: maroc-genie@hotmail.fr (verified)

Originating IP address of the sender: 41.141.210.45

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Thank you for using T .com.  
[Your profile page.](#)

T .com

~~Message body content~~

**Note:** If you cannot see links in this message, please change preferences in your mailing application to show incoming messages in HTML format.

This message was sent on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 4:14:13 PM UTC.



Allen

Superfluous fluff

Bi-directional translation services

Errant grammar

No last name

Verified scammer from

<http://www.translator-scammers.com/>

From Allen <beijingparam3@hotmail.com>☆

Subject: German and English into Asian language service provider

To support★

Dear support,

I know it must be dull and uninteresting to review these self-introductions from freelance translators. Thus please just take reading my email as a rest to relax as I am sure you will be at ease to work with me who has more than 10 years' experience in dealing with DEU/ENG<>CHN translation in Law, Business, Engineering, Patent, and Education areas. And I have translated websites, books, user manuals, legal documents and so on with high quality.

My daily output is 2500 Words.  
if you have such translation request pls contact me freely.

I am really pleased to work with you soon.



Yours sincerely,

Allen

# CHRISTINA ZHAO

## Application for "English < > Chinese Translator"

from Christina Zhao on Jul 24 02:56 AM

 christina.translation@gmail.com Jul 24 02:56 AM (.28 days ago) 

To: <info@...com>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application for "English < > Chinese Translator"

If you are looking for a Chinese native professional translator to handle your Chinese-English or English-Chinese and French to Chinese etc. translations, I should be glad if you would consider me as an applicant.

I am a **FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL LEGAL TRANSLATOR** working **ONLINE**. You can reach me all the time when a job is available.

I have 13 years of **HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE** in providing quality professional translation service as a freelance translator, specializing in various fields (Please refer to my CV below).

As for the rate, my rate varies from EUR 0.07 to EUR 0.10 per source word/character, and I can translate 2500 to 5000 words/characters per day.

I accept PayPal, Moneybookers and Western Union and I am looking forward to working with you.

For any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you

Attachments:

 Translator\_CV(Christina).pdf  
Download

 Reply  Reply All  Forward

Christina Zhao

 christina.translation@gmail.com

**Christina Zhao**  
Translator, Editor, Proofreader

christina.translation@gmail.com

### LANGUAGES

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Chinese: Mother language  
English: Fluent  
French: Fluent

### SPECIALIZATIONS

---

#### **Media/Journalism/Publishing**

(books and manuals, books of instruction, newspaper articles)

#### **Business/Finance**

(formal letters, internal/external communications)

#### **Marketing and Advertising materials**

(promotional material, websites, advertising text, marketing research)

#### **Education**

(textbooks, presentations)

#### **Cosmetics**

(instructions, descriptions, marketing and sales)

#### **Music**

(education/pedagogy, musician biographies, CD )

# CHRISTINA ZHAO

Christina Zhao  
Translator, Editor, Proofreader

christina.translation@gmail.com

## LANGUAGES

---

Chinese: Mother language  
English: Fluent  
French: Fluent

## SPECIALIZATIONS

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**Media/Journalism/Publishing**  
(books and manuals, books of instruction, newspaper articles)  
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(formal letters, internal/external communications)  
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(promotional material, websites, advertising text, marketing research)  
**Education**  
(textbooks, presentations)  
**Cosmetics**  
(instructions, descriptions, marketing and sales)  
**Music**  
(education/pedagogy, musician biographies, CD )

Translator, Editor, Proofreader

## LANGUAGES

---

Native language – Chinese  
French/English => Chinese translator

## SPECIALIZATIONS

---

**Business/Finance**  
(Insurance, formal letters, internal/external communications)  
**Marketing and Advertising materials**  
(Tourism, promotional material, websites, advertising text, marketing research)  
**Media/Journalism/Publishing**  
(books and manuals, books of instruction, newspaper articles)  
**Education**  
(textbooks, presentations)  
**Cosmetics**  
(instructions, descriptions, marketing and sales)  
**Music**  
(education/pedagogy, musician biographies, CD )

# LILIANA SILVA

## Lilian Isabel Silva

**Address:** Av. Santa Maria, n.º 15, 4º D, 2830-007, Barreiro Portugal

**Language:** English – Portuguese

**E-mail:** silvarew@gmail.com

## Professional Experience

Currently: Freelance Translator

1999 2002- Fundação Luso-Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento dos Países de Língua Portuguesa.

*Assistant to the Director.*

1989-1998 - Connections International Services

*Partner – In addition to translation works on different fields I was also responsible for quality control, as well as coordination of the team of translators.*

1986-1989 - Unique Language Center

*Translator and Coordinator of the Translation Department – Responsible for setting up the department, coordination of the translators and interface with clients.*

1983-1986 - Unique Language Center

Go Back Edit Delete Mark Spam Actions

Follow

## English - Portuguese Translator ( vise-versa)

from Lilian Silva on Jul 30 05:44 AM

silvarew@gmail.com Jul 30 05:44 AM ( 22 days ago)

To <undisclosed-recipients>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Lilian Silva and My mother tongue is Portuguese and I am fluent in English (spoken and written). I am available for many tasks, in particular in teaching and research, based on profound and diverse international experiences in numerous fields related to science and technology policy and the economic and social impacts of innovation.

I take the liberty of submitting my application to work as your partner.

I am a professional editor, translator, proofreader and conference interpreter, as well as a project leader, with a successful and diversified background. I just came from France to resettle in Israel, in Jerusalem. I should like to offer my services in Marketing - Trade - Administration - Legal - Education - Human Resources - Industry and Technology.

Agriculture - Health - Medicine - Science - Social Sciences - Art and Culture - Environment

The attached CV provides an overview of my background and work.

I work rapidly full-time and when required I can translate about 3500 words per day - or proofread many more -and aim to provide an impeccable product. I use SDL Trados and Word fast as a CAT tool.

Please do not hesitate to request additional information if required.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Lilian Silva

English – Portuguese (Brazil & Portugal)

Attachments:

Lilian Silva.pdf  
Download

Reply Reply All Forward

# LILIANA SILVA

## Lilian Isabel Silva

**Address:** Av. Santa Maria, n.º 15, 4º D, 2830-007, Barreiro Portugal

**Language:** English – Portuguese

**E-mail:** silvarew@gmail.com

### Professional Experience

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1983-1986 - Unique Language Center

*Teacher of Portuguese for Foreigners - In-house classes for senior executives of multinational companies  
English Teacher - In-house classes for Brazilian executives*

1981-1983 - Associação Alumni

*Teacher of Portuguese for Foreigners - In-house classes for senior executives of multinational companies*

[REDACTED]  
Alamed: [REDACTED]  
1600-675 Lisbon Portugal  
tels.: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [REDACTED]

### Professional Experience

Currently: Free lance Translator

1999 2002- Fundação Luso-Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento dos Países de Língua Portuguesa.

*Assistant to the Director.*

1989-1998 - Connections International Services

*Partner – In addition to translation works on different fields I was also responsible for quality control, as well as coordination of the team of translators.*

1986-1989 - Unique Language Center

*Translator and Coordinator of the Translation Department – Responsible for setting up the department, coordination of the translators and interface with clients.*

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English Teacher - In-house classes for Brazilian executives*

1981-1983 - Associação Alumni

*Teacher of Portuguese for Foreigners - In-house classes for senior executives of multinational companies*



# RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

- [http://atanet.org/business\\_practices/bp\\_listserv.php](http://atanet.org/business_practices/bp_listserv.php)
- <http://www.translator-scammers.com/>
- <http://www.paymentpractices.net/>
- <http://translationethics.blogspot.se/p/blog-page.html>
- [http://www.jrdias.com/PDF/JRD\\_The\\_Translator\\_Scammers\\_Plague\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf](http://www.jrdias.com/PDF/JRD_The_Translator_Scammers_Plague_Survey_Report.pdf)
- Twitter: @tsdirectory
- <http://www.proz.com/about/translator-scam-alerts/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/grps/Translation-agencies-business-practices-1536857/about>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Unacceptable-Translation-Rates-Naming-Shaming-3415770/about>

# THANK YOU

- Website: [josephwojowski.com](http://josephwojowski.com)
- Translation Technology Blog: [josephwojowski.wordpress.com](http://josephwojowski.wordpress.com)
- Twitter: [@ferluc666](https://twitter.com/ferluc666)