

# SPOTTING FAKE CVs

by the TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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**WHO SHOULD READ THIS?** Everybody with any role or interest in the translation industry. But, specially, PMs from translation companies and anyone from the companies' staff especially responsible for **validating and risk-assessing** any CVs received.

**HOW CAN I KNOW IF A CV HAS BEEN STOLEN AND HIJACKED BY SCAMMERS?** This is a recurrent question that translators and translation companies keep asking us. Below is our insight about it.

Start by bearing in mind that the whole CV scamming operation described in the **TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS DIRECTORY** is based on ONE thing, and ONE thing only: an email address (or several email addresses) created and operated by the scammers as their point of contact. Scammers don't want you to call them: they have no phones or just publish fake phone numbers on their fake CVs. And, scammers don't want to receive mail from you: they have no postal addresses or just publish fake ones on their CVs. Some scammers even state on their CVs: "Contact by email only"! The name, any name, used by scammers (either the name of a real translator or a fantasy name created by them), is but a secondary element in their operation.

Then, scammers follow patterns and routines. And, when you think about the ways that can be used to hijack and modify a CV, there aren't that many:

**STRAIGHT COPY CV** (i.e., *verbatim*), keeping the translator-victim's name, but **including (ALWAYS) the scammers' email address(es).** We call this a **DIRECT IMPERSONATION.** However, **be most careful with this type of CV:** scammers may have requested **and received** other professional or identification documents (diplomas, certificates or ID documents) from the real translator (**and, therefore, the real name cannot be changed**) which they'll use to make their scam more credible.

**PARTIAL COPY CV**, changing only the name, or the address, or the education, or the professional details of **ONE** genuine CV. **Of course, the email address(es) listed on the CV belong to the scammers.** We refer to this as **INDIRECT IMPERSONATION.**

**COPY AND PASTE CV.** Scammers will use a translator's real name (or they'll create a fantasy name) and "assemble" a look-real CV with bits and pieces from various sources, or just made up stuff. Frequently, these CVs will show 3 or more fonts of different sizes and (sometimes) colors. The addresses shown are, for the most part, harvested from real estate portals, and frequently with "wrong" postal codes (to evade detection in Google, they think...). **Again, the email address(es) listed on the CV belong to the scammers.** This is but a **DELIRIOUS IMPERSONATION.**



1. Scammers **ALWAYS** send their emails from **FREE ACCOUNTS:** Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, Outlook (frequently from outlook.sa, i.e., Saudi Arabia!!!), etc. Only in extremely rare occasions they'll use other free email providers. **Further reading:** [Scammers, Emails, and Email Headers.](#)
2. Scammers usually (90%) use 2 free email addresses to send their fake CVs. To hide their identity and elude detection, some scammers operate up to 6 and 7 different email addresses to send one (only) stolen CV... Recently, because of the public exposure pressure and to speed up their operation, **scammers are sending many CVs from one email address only, like Gmail or Hotmail.**

3. Usually (99% of the times), when two email addresses are used, messages are actually sent from the Gmail account (Gmail doesn't allow geolocation), but appearing to have been sent from the other address (**from**). In the email header, look for "Sender:" or "envelope-sender" address. That's the actual sending address. **Further reading:** [Scammers, Emails, and Email Headers](#).
4. Email subject and body with fantastic copy. Here are some of our favorites:

*xx years of experiment Chinese Translator*

*Actions speak louder than words*

*Address: the capital of the Languedoc-Roussillon region of southern France (**wow!**)*

*Always my best effort!*

*An effective project manager aspires to make successful deals*

*Assistant at the Embassy of German in (...)*

*Beyond the dictionary*

*Creative, Efficient, Precise, Hip & Careful (**yes, we'll be careful**)*

*Czech to English and English to Slovak, immediate available full time translator*

*Decorative words can not express fact, work only can show the truth (**wow!**)*

*Due to our sincerity and accuracy translation work is expanded in our company*

*English <> Japanese freelance translator*

*English <> Greece Translator*

*English<>Portuguese<>Japanese Translator (**scammers always work in all directions**)*

*English to Portuguese Translation adn Vice Veras*

*Freelacne Translator*

*Freelance Translator Collaboration Proposal*

*High quality you'll receive*

*Highly Proffesional Talented Translator*

*Honest translation with affordable prices*

*Hope to have a prospective relation and cooperate with you*

*I am a French*

*I am a highly creative English translator from Turky*

*I am a native German speaker and fluent in English for about 10 years*

*I Am a Competent And Quality Freelance*

*I am available all the time even in weekends and holidays (**typical scammers' talk**)*

*I am honored to enlighten you with my great passion for being in your service*

*I am fully qualified as translator, because of Master's Degree in General Linguistics (**LOL**)*

*I am one of the few that can meet your goals*

*I am skilled in translating languages (**wow!**)*

*I am so productive and my motto is accuracy and speed and none should be sacrificed at the expense of the other (**wow!**)*

*I am very interested in the Freelance Translatotion*

*I declare that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge (**LOL**)*

*I have many Studies of Interior Design*

*I have obtained many certificates of different specializations from many countries (**one, please**)*

*I hope to make Cooperate with you soon (**LOL**)*

*I like languages, challenges and translating is an other way for me to travel abroad! (**wow!**)*

*I live in Worldwide. My country is Brazil*

*I offer bestowal without confines in translation (**we love this one**)*

*I possess the unique ability to predict a customer's needs (**we love this one**)*

*I propose (!!!) as a freelancer translator*

*I Translate, you Relax (**don't you just feel safe?**)*

*I will translate the entire world for you with passion and smile*

*I worship professionalism (**wow!**)*

*I would like to schedule an informational CV with you*

*I'd welcome being considered for the opening you have at in English, Chinese, and Unlimited.*

*I'm a highly creative translator (**very frequent in scammers' emails**)*  
*Interpreter In Many Conferences In English <>Swedish<>Dutch (**for example? one?**)*  
*It is my pleaser to be in your team work*  
*It's my summit pleasure to working with you and I'm confident I'll be your good opinion*  
*Lots of experience as a proof-reader and translator (**wow!**)*  
*Meaning and understanding in a package*  
*My BA Degree in English Language and Literature with MA of Arts also studied (!!!)*  
*My goal is always to dexterously convey the message in the target language*  
*My native language is Japanese But I live in Russian*  
*My strong is submitting translation before the due time*  
*My target in life to satisfy your demand*  
*Native Indonesian speaker with prefect translation skills*  
*No translation without interpretation*  
*Our Ultimate Translation Mission and Vision*  
*Perfect Translation Skills Available (**favorite scammers' email subject line**)*  
*Position in the Engineering Department (**any chance of telling us where?**)*  
*Professional but affordable*  
*Professionalism level is not to high from me*  
*Qualified and Certified (any chance of telling us by whom?)*  
*Quality is No.1 priority*  
*Several books (non-fiction) and books (non-fiction) !!!*  
*Skillfull experienced freelancer upon request*  
*Some of the pervious translation jobs I handled*  
*Sophisticated Language Skills (**we love this one**)*  
*Speed is important, quality is essential*  
*Traducteur/trice – copywriter à temps plein (**i.e., just copied from a job offer online**)*  
*Translation of 37 Thank Letter*  
*Translating more than 700,500 web pages for Sports (**almost the whole Internet, right?**)*  
*Trust me, and you will harvest the best translation*  
*We will help you see the world anew*  
*With sunny smiles and blessings for a lovely day I hope you are fine*  
*You should try me. Be careful as it is addictive.*  
*You will be ever fascinated with the excellent results*  
*Your colleagues to translate (**on email subject. meaning?**)*  
*Your TRUST Is My Infinite Satisfaction*

5. Email body written in **lousy English, and ALWAYS in English**, even in mails from a “native French translator” sent to a French translation company. But, because scammers use the “cover letter” they ask from their translators-victims to make up their emails, their writing can look acceptable and even provide a good indication about the real linguistic skills of the real translator! When asked by an Italian company why “she” didn't communicate in Italian, “Elena Mazzotta” responded: **«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.»**
6. In the CVs attached to the scammers' emails, look for:
  - a) In the document properties (in DOC format), look for an “Author” and, specially, the “Last saved by” info different from the CV's name, and in Contents, look for some Arabic word (**in CVs scammed in Palestine and other Arab countries, which account for about 99% of the fake CVs in circulation**); see a [list of names/words used in document properties](#).
  - b) Residential address (fake, most of the times) without house numbers and non-matching zip codes, and sometimes even with non-matching countries: scammers live in “42 Breedon Hill Road, Paris, France”, in a “76th floor” in Lisbon, Portugal, on “no. 82” of a street in Paris,

France, in which numbers go only up to 52, at the Israeli PM's Office, in a Chinese address with a UK Postcode, (are you ready?) at the US Embassy in London, or (are you ready again?) at 60-185 Skrzewo Wrzosowa St., England! For example, ghost "Tae Lian" includes in "his" fake CV a very Korean (and fake) phone number: 82 17 7365 1326 for a very fake US address: "32145 Motor City Drive, Suite 325, Bethesda, United States"!!! One particular French address – *n°107 rue de la jalade porte 109, 34090 Montpellier* – has already been used in 12 (twelve!) different scammed CVs! [See other addresses used by scammers.](#)

- c) No phone numbers, or modified numbers to render them unusable (change, addition or deletion of one or more digits) or just impossible numbers with no country code or a wrong area code. For example, "Monica Cordeiro" (impersonator of a Portuguese translator with the same name) includes in "her" fake CV a very "Portuguese" phone number: +451 96 4544 005 (the country code for Portugal is +351, and there is no country with a +451 calling code)!
- d) Name used by the scammer can be **(1)** the name of a legitimate translator (direct impersonation) or **(2)** a fantasy name (indirect impersonation), usually used wrongly: "Jim" is a female, "Marcos Misha" is a "native Portuguese", Henk, a Dutch male name, short form of Hendrik, is used in a CV with a female photo, "Claire Haroon" is a "native Iranian", and "Erica Alves" is a "native Russian"; they'll impersonate a real translator called Charlotte using the name "Ritha" and use Charlotte's address on a fake CV belonging to a ghost called "Anna"; within a time span of two years, scammers also sent "Anna" to "teach translation in Bangkok", to be the "assistant director" of a Thai video production company and to be the "technical assistant" at the Modern Art Museum of Lille, France!
- e) Unless the name used by the scammer belongs to a legitimate translator (**direct impersonation**), the fantasy names (and the emails) used by the scammers NEVER show up anywhere online (except, of course, in our Directory), no matter how impressive and "professional" the CV may look; **be careful, though: some scammers have created profiles for their ghosts in translation and other online portals to give them some Internet footprint.**
- f) Education details are usually easily traced back to the legitimate owner, specially if they include the titles of academic dissertations/thesis; look also for *Speedy Gonzales Translators*, i.e. ghost "translators" trying to impress clients with 4 different academic diplomas from 4 universities (some of them inexistent!) in 3 (or 4) different continents within a time span of 4 or 5 years; in their lunacy, scammers will justify their knowledge of languages by claiming to have worked as tutors of such languages for young children in their countries of residence or birth; in other cases, scammers make their ghosts graduate in "Translation and Interpretation", right after they got their PhD in Nuclear Physics or Medicine! In this crazy world of stolen CVs, you'll run across a "highly creative native German translator" called "Abella Madel", a "Palestinian translator with Japanese mother tongue" called "Basel Nahal", a "20-year old guy from Pakistan with a PhD", a PM from a "translation company" working out of a Turkish bank branch (!); or as one of our most faithful informants discovered:
- *Scammers took the name of a Belgian cyclist (Ferdie Dierickx), born 1962, for their fake translator!*
  - *Then, they moved the poor guy to Utrecht, in the Netherlands, where he has to live in a non-existing street!!!*
  - *Life being very hard at this place, he had to start working as a translator at the age of 17. At the age of 19, he was "Project Assistent [sic] in Finance", then he worked in IT, all of a sudden became a paralegal, then a freelance translator, and also a "professional Environmental Planner". Not bad, for a guy of 32 years of age...*
- g) Professional experience and other details are normally copied verbatim, or copied and pasted from several curriculums, to make online detection harder (e.g., the jobs section of a Russian colleague's CV has been cannibalized to feed, so far, more than 25 fake CVs...). Titles of

translated books or work done for some obscure, less known companies or projects also provide good clues to find the legitimate owner of the scammed CV;

- h) Out of utter stupidity and carelessness, scammers often betray themselves: "Rosanna Shirley", a ghost created by scammers, circulates a CV stolen from a senior Italian translator, born in 1942. Therefore, "Rosanna", born 1972, "she" says, claims in "her" CV": «*retired on grounds of age*»... Or "Alexey Weliam", a "male" and a "mother for 2 boys".
- i) "*Rates are always negotiable*", and "*available 7 days a week including vacations and holidays*" are also common claims from scammers;
- j) Outrageously bad CVs: in their scamming craze, scammers will use anything, including some of the lousiest and unprofessional CVs (real or just made up) we and you will ever see...

As a final exercise, ask any "native" French, or German, or Italian scammer if he/she is available for a Greek to Norwegian translation job of a *Turbo Encabulator system* (or any other stupid text you may think of). Without even blinking an eye, you'll promptly get their answer: "*Yes, I'm available. Please send file and PO!*" It's up to you to take this "test" a bit further... If you do, ask scammers for any positive proof of their ID (for payment purposes, you'll say), and you'll hear: *I cannot send you any proof of ID, because the net is always being hacked...*

Or, as the ultimate weapon to expose a fake translator, ask him/her for a chat on camera! You'll hear the most amazing excuses: "*bad connection*", "*camera broken*", "*I'm driving*", "*no camera*", "*I don't use chat for business, just email*", or our favorite excuse: "*...because I have a speaking problems, my vocal cords damaged due to an old accident.*"



**THE TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP**

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