Examples of scam job offers targeting translators and interpreters

From: Arthur Williams <arthurwilliams127@gmail.com>
Subject: English/Portuguese
Date: 8August2019 at 19:37:39 CDT
To: joetranslator@acetranslator.com [This is a fake e-mail address used for illustrative purposes only – Joe doesn't really exist and neither does the domain acetranslator.com!]

I'm contacting you in regard to an English content document worth
11,643 words (44 Pages). I need this document translated into Portuguese.
I would like to know if you are interested and available to get this
done for me. Please get back to me as soon as you can.
Thank you

This one is very common. Variants of this e-mail have been making the rounds for several years now. The obvious "red flags" here are the gmail address; the odd English ("an English content document *worth* 11,643 words), despite the fact that "Arthur Williams" would seem to be a native speaker of English; and the lack of detail about the subject matter of the document. Also, this e-mail was sent to a translator who translates from Portuguese to English, but not from English to Portuguese.

From: "."
Subject: French to English Translation
Date: 28August2020 at 09:39:33 CDT
To: joetranslator@acetranslator.com

Greetings,
How are you doing today? I kindly ask for your service in translating a document in the above language pair. Kindly confirm your availability, so I can send you full details about the project. Will be waiting on your timely response.

Best Regards.

This one exhibits the same red flags as the one above, but with one additional (great big) one: A single dot appears in the "From" field. Hovering the cursor over the dot, however, revealed that the message had been sent by garretyjh@gmail.com. No legitimate client would ever fail to include a name in the "From" field!

From: Steve Rogers <Stevenson_rogers1987@outlook.com>
Subject: Translation
Date: 20August2020 at 22:23:36 CDT
To: joetranslator@acetranslator.com

Hello,
How are you doing today? And I'm contacting you regarding an English content in which I want to get translated, So kindly get back to me with the language in which you translating and if you available so I can forward the document to you asap for the quote, I found your contact at Austin Area Interpreters and Translators Association, Thank you.

Apart from the ghastly English, the main thing that identifies this as a scam offer is the failure to state the language combination, although the sender claims to have found Joe Translator's information in the AATIA directory, where Joe's working languages are clearly indicated. A legitimate client would *always* specify the language combination!

From: Eric Strom <eric_a_strom@hotmail.com>
Subject: English to spanish translation
Date: 19December2019 at 20:23:57 CST
To: undisclosed-recipients:;

Good evening,

I obtained your contact information from the American Translators Association website. I am working with a private investigator on a case and need some documents (approximately 200 pages) translated from spanish to english. Can you please tell me your rates?

Eric

The big red flag here is that the e-mail was sent to "undisclosed recipients," meaning that hundreds of others probably got it. Also, "Eric" provides no information about who he is or why he is (supposedly) working with the private investigator. If this were a legitimate offer, it would most likely have come from a law firm with a verifiable domain name and the sender would have provided more information about the documents to be translated. Also, the sender would have capitalized "Spanish" and "English."

From: charles kirkpatrick <charleskirkpatrick87@gmail.com>
Subject: You there
Date: 30March2019 at 11:54:52 CDT
To: joetranslator@acetranslator.com

Good day,

I looked you up on Translators/Interpreter directory. I seek your service in translating an English article of about 11,000 words into Spanish. Please get back to me and let me know your availability and I would respond with a copy of the document to be translated.

Thanks,
Charles Kirkpatrick.

More red flags: A legitimate client would never put "You there" in the subject line! Also, "Charles" does not say which "Translators/Interpreter" directory he found your name in. And the recipient in this case was someone who translates from Spanish into English, but not from English into Spanish – something that "Charles" would have known if he had really looked the translator up in the directory of AATIA or another association.

From: Cameron Sizzler <c.sizzler@gmail.com>
Date: November 2, 2018 at 11:16:00 AM CDT
To: janeinterpreter@aceinterpreter.com [Jane, like Joe, is fictitious!]
Subject: Re: On-site Interpreters Needed!

On-site Interpreters Needed!

Venn Group Recruiting Expert is looking for face-to-face interpreters.

On-site interpreters work on a freelance basis, going to a variety of appointments in USA.

We are currently seeking interpreters to work on a 3 days seminar scheduled for November 14th - November 16th.2018

Requirements :

* Fluent in language of specialty & English
* Two years of interpreting experience
* Training and/or certification in interpretation (+)
* Knowledge of on-site interpreter standards

* Professional demeanor and appearance
* U.S. citizenship or a valid work permit

If you are interested in becoming an interpreter for the event, please send us your resume today!

This one is a little unusual in that it targets interpreters rather than translators. But all the same red flags are present:

- Although “Cameron” purports to represent a company called Venn Group, he/she uses a Gmail address.
- The language combination is not specified, nor is the location or nature of the interpreting job.
- The English in the message is terrible.

The AATIA member who received this message described her experience with the scammer at one of our general meetings. You can read her account at https://aatia.org/aatia-ends-year-with-three-great-meetings

From: "careers@aptarpharma.com" <careers@aptarpharma.company.com>
Subject: APTAR PHARMA JOB OFFER - TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER
Date: 7November2019 at 04:38:13 CST
To: scottsvance7@gmail.com

Dear Applicant,
After a quick review of your profile on the(Austin Translator And interpreters Association(ATIA), I write to present APTAR PHARMA TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER job offer, Aptar is a leading global supplier of a broad range of innovative dispensing, sealing and active packaging solutions for the beauty, personal care, home care, prescription drug, consumer health care, injectables, food and beverage markets. We’re in search of individuals, company irrespective of the current business type for a TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER Position.

Please indicate your interest to receive a full job description.

A referral will be welcome.
Yours Sincerely,
Joanne Calandra,
Director Human Resources,
APTAR PHARMACEUTICAL.
www.aptar.com
Be you. Be challenged. *Be inspired.*

This type of scam has also become very common. Sometimes the original offer includes a job description, along with some language lifted from the company website (see the example below) and sometimes a company logo and/or slogan, which gives it a veneer of legitimacy, but don’t be fooled! There are numerous red flags here:

- The sender's e-mail address (careers@aptarpharma.com) and the actual e-mail address (careers@aptarpharma.company.com) don't match. Aptar is a real company and the domain aptapharma.com appears to be a real domain owned by the company, as it redirects to https://www.aptar.com/pharmaceutical/. However, a fraud warning on the company's career website indicates that legitimate job offers are sent only from @aptar.com. The domain aptarpharma.company.com does not exist.
- The address in the "To" field (scottsvance7@gmail.com) doesn't match the recipient's e-mail address. This e-mail was sent to an AATIA member at her true address.
- The sender says that Aptar is recruiting individuals for a translator/interpreter position "irrespective of the current business type." So, they're supposedly willing to take someone who is currently working as, say, a landscaper to do the job of a translator/interpreter. A legitimate client would want someone who is currently working in the T&I field!

Here's another, longer variant of this scam.

From: BAYER AG <kelvinjustus17@gmail.com>
Subject: TRANSLATING/PROOFREADING JOB!!
Date: 3May2019 at 13:14:48 CDT
To: undisclosed-recipients:;

Hello,

Your portfolio published on AUSTIN AREA TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION has been reviewed by our HR Department at (BAYER) and we are pleased to invite you to an online interview/briefing exercise. You've been assigned to Mr. Gerald Berkley (Hiring Manager) of Bayer Pharmaceuticals. He would be conducting an online interview with you.

Position available: TRANSLATING/PROOFREADING JOB.

Job Type: Full-Time/Part-Time
Hourly Rate: $48/Hour
Training Rate: $28/Hour
Your salary package may include pension benefits, commissions and bonuses, no Startup Costs, 1099-K structure.

ABOUT US:

We address some of the world's most pressing global challenges and continue to develop new solutions. The population is constantly growing and its age is increasing. That is why it needs better medicines and high-quality food in sufficient quantities.

At Bayer Pharmaceuticals, our largest segment in terms of sales, we focus on researching, developing and marketing specialty-focused innovative medicines that provide significant clinical benefit and value, primarily in the therapeutic areas of cardiology, oncology, gynecology, hematology and ophthalmology. In this way, we are addressing the growing requirements of patients, physicians, health care payers and regulatory agencies.

At Bayer Pharmaceuticals, we provide the tools to enable the personal growth and fulfillment for individuals and as a company we work together as a team to make a positive difference for our employees. We operate an equal opportunities policy for all current and potential employees and offer all our employees clear and fair terms and conditions of employment. We maintain a clear and open dialogue with all our staff and have policies and procedures in place for staff to formally raise any concerns should that ever be required. We operate a fair and consistent employee selection process based on skills and ability regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnic group or religion. We ensure our suppliers have similar standards as part of our supplier selection process.

Translation: Conversion of written documents into the target language.

Translator/Proofreader responsibilities include reading and thoroughly understanding the context of given material, using specialized dictionaries and translation tools and proofreading finished pieces of work. To be successful in this role, you should have a keen eye for detail and be fluent in at least two languages in addition to your native language.

Responsibilities:

- Read given material and research industry-specific terminology
- Convert text and audio recordings from one language to one or more others
- Ensure translated content conveys original meaning and tone
- Prepare subtitles for videos and online presentations
- Cross-reference specialized dictionaries and translation tools to check quality of translation
- Proofread translated texts for grammar, spelling and punctuation accuracy
- Follow up with internal team members and clients to ensure translation meets their needs
- Edit content with an eye toward maintaining its original format (e.g. font and structure)
- Network with field experts to stay current on new translation tools and practices.

Requirements

- Proven work experience as a Translator, Interpreter or similar role
- Fluency in at least two languages in addition to your native language
- Excellent proofreading skills with the ability to identify grammar, spelling and punctuation errors
- Good knowledge of content editing tools
- Familiarity with translation software
- Time-management skills
- BSc in Translation, Interpreting or similar field
- Additional certification in Linguistics is a plus

Ultimately, you will provide ready-to-use translated content that meets our internal needs and helps us reach a broader audience.

Training:

You'll go through a thorough, comprehensive, five (5) days training online program during your probationary period. The candidate will be getting a career, not a stepping stone. This is an amazing opportunity for the right individual who will get all the necessary guidance and training to have a far-reaching career.

INTERVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

Google hangout will be used for the purpose of the interview. To contact Him, setup a gmail acct. (www.gmail.com)and also download a Google talk app (www.google.com/hangouts) on your phone or computer using your email and add up (hr.geraldberkley@gmail.com) for more information and interview procedure.

Your verification code is (BPH/P2019-6548). This would serve as your identification number throughout the on-line hiring process. This is a remote job and working hours are flexible.

Job description, pay scale, duties and briefing about the company will be discussed during the interview.

Training is also available,
NOTE : Freelance Job

Interview Scheduled:
9:00 AM-6:00 PM CST
(Monday-Friday)

Your swift and timely response matters a lot as this is an immediate hire position... We look forward to having you on the team.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Natalie Loucas.

https://www.bayer.com
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BIG red flags here:

- The e-mail supposedly comes from BAYER AG, which is, of course, a legitimate company, but the sender is kelvinjustus17@gmail.com. If it really came from Bayer, the domain would be @bayer.com or @career.bayer.com.
- The e-mail was sent to "undisclosed recipients." Companies like Bayer don't normally send out unsolicited e-mail to potential job candidates and they certainly don't mass mail them to hundreds of undisclosed recipients. Normally, anyone wanting a job at Bayer would do a job search on the company's career website (https://career.bayer.com/en/career) and apply via the link provided there.
- The language combination required is not specified.
- The job is described as both a remote freelance job and a full-time/part-time position with the possibility of "pension benefits, commissions and bonuses, no Startup Costs, 1099-K structure." A real translator position would never include commissions and bonuses or "startup costs" and there is no such thing as a "1099-K structure." The scammer probably meant to refer to a 401K plan; the fact that he doesn't even know what it's called is a dead giveaway that this is a scam. A real recruiter at Bayer would certainly know what a 401K is!
- The interview for the position is to be conducted on Google Hangouts. A company like Bayer would not be conducting interviews on Google Hangouts!

These scams work in essentially the same way as the above overpayment scams, except that the "client/employer" sends you advance payment to cover the cost of equipment that you will supposedly need to purchase for your training period.

IF YOU RECEIVE AN E-MAIL RESEMBLING ANY OF THE ABOVE, HIT "DELETE"!