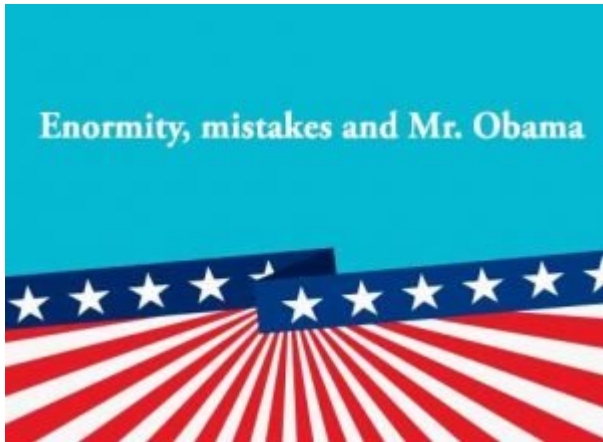


# Enormity mistakes

16 de octubre de 2015



In 2008, on winning the presidential election, **Mr. Barack Obama** spoke about the “enormity” (la enormidad de) of the tasks that he faced (to face a task - hacer frente a una tarea). His speech writer showed his complete (mostró una falta completa de su dominio del inglés) lack of command of English. Why?

“*Enormity*” means a deviation from moral or legal rectitude, (*una desviación de rectitud*), and relates to great wickedness (*maldad*) or crimes.

In reality, Mr. Obama wanted to refer to the big issues in the economy, Afghanistan, and some social issues rather than some moral depravities (*depravaciones*) in American society, or wicked actions that he was contemplating.

The correct phrase should have been “the enormousness of the tasks” or “the enormous tasks”.

In Spanish the word *enormidad* covers both “*enormity*” and “*enormousness*”, but in English **you have to be careful if you wish to communicate clearly.**