

The register of 'hard news':
Case studies on news reporting
in Vietnam, Japan and
~~Indonesia.~~

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Outline

- ✓ Background: the register of 'hard' news in English
- ✓ Research questions
- ✓ Methodology
- ✓ Analysis:
 - ✓ Indonesian story
 - ✓ Japanese story
 - ✓ Vietnamese story
- ✓ Discussion: comparison of 'hard' news registers

'Hard' news in English

- ✓ typically associated with **eruptive violence, reversals of fortune and socially significant breaches of the moral order**" (White 1997)
- ✓ the 'voice' of hard news is **'factual', 'neutral'** and free of **'subjectivity'** - yet an authorial stance is present.
- ✓ avoids **interpersonal meanings** which indicate opinion.
 - ✓ For eg. Avoids explicit value judgments about the morality, competence, normality etc of participants - uses implicit judgments
 - ✓ Avoids explicit evaluations of events and entities in terms of their aesthetics or emotional impact - uses implicit evaluations;
 - ✓ Avoids inferences about the motivations and intentions of participants and contentious claims about causes and effects
- ✓ Uses **bare assertions and attribution**

An example:

The values of explicit judgment which occur are mediated through attribution: *violates the most fundamental of human rights* is attributed to *Philippe Sands QC, professor of law at University College, London*

The length of detention is in some way contrary to expectation: *more than two years*

Nine Britons and three British residents are among the 660 men who have been held at the American naval basin in Cuba for more than two years without charge or access to lawyers. Another 11 Europeans, several from France, Sweden and Germany, are also detained at Camp Delta.

“We have to speak not only to the courts of law but to the courts of public opinion,” said the president of the ACLU, said. She said there was a “violation of the administration’s actions in the ‘war on terror’...”

- two paragraphs are bare assertions - denying other dialogistic alternatives.

- attributing voices are: the families, ACLU president and Philippe Sands

...the treatment of these 660 being held without access to a court, violates the most fundamental of human rights [Philippe Sands QC, professor of law at University College, London 4:4]

Research Questions



- ✓ whether hard news in Vietnamese, Japanese and Indonesian contains authorial positions and if so,
- ✓ how are these positions realised?

Methodology



- ✓ One hard news story per language (3);
- ✓ Appraisal analysis
 - ✓ Each analysed for attitude:- **judgment**, **appreciation** and **affect**:
 - ✓ Positive / Negative;
 - ✓ Inscribed / Invoked;
 - ✓ Each analysed for **engagement**:
 - ✓ Bare assertions / attribution.

Indonesian: *“Wife of Armed Forces Officer Abducted by GAM”*

- ✓ appeared in the *Suara Pembaruan* on July 4, 2003;
- ✓ reports on the 29 June, 2003 abduction of two women who were part of a group of experienced journalists who were stopped by five armed men from the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM) while travelling home;
- ✓ The abduction ended in a shoot out between the Indonesian Military Police and the Free Aceh Movement, killing the senior journalist. The two women and the cameraman were released unharmed.
- ✓ The abduction was complicated by the fact that one of the women was the wife of an Indonesian Armed Forces officer.

Japanese: *“Sovereignty handed over to Iraq. As a precaution against terrorists, (the handover) is brought forward. The 14month occupation (of Iraq) is over”*

- ✓ appeared in the *Nihon Keizai Newspaper* on 29 June, 2004;
- ✓ The Nikkei is an economic paper also reporting on world events;
- ✓ reports on the politically significant handover of power to the provisional Iraqi government by America’s Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).
- ✓ The handover occurred two days earlier than expected. It was only after the ceremony was over that the event made public. This bringing forward of the handover sparked debate over why it was unexpectedly and secretly brought forward.

Vietnamese: “*US mask stripped off in Iraq*”



- ✓ appeared in the on-line version of the *Nhan Dan Daily* (the People’s Daily) on May 14, 2004;
- ✓ reports on the Abu Ghraib prisoner scandal during the Iraqi war and addresses the issue of human rights violations;
- ✓ The story asserts that the US has lost control of the situation in Iraq and suggests that the US uses the protection of human rights as a strategy for invading a sovereign nation.
- ✓ The *Nhan Dan Daily* is the Communist Party’s primary national newspaper.

Indonesian story

The story uses both **attribution** and **bare assertion** about equally.

Negative attitude:-
Inscribed only, two asserted
& one attributed

Positive attitude:-
inscribed by attributed voices
and author, only one invoked
which is attributed

Wife of Armed Forces Officer **Abducted** [j] by GAM

Lhokseumawe [place name] – the wife of an Armed Forces officer and her younger sister who joined the group of RCTI journalists travelling from Langsa [place name] to Lhokseumawe have also been **kidnapped** [j] by The Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Since then, until Friday morning, TNI officials still do not know the exact position of the RCTI journalist and cameraman even though there has been communication that they are in the Peureulak district, East Aceh.

TNI spokesperson in Lhokseumawe, Lieutenant CAJ Ahmad Yani Basuki, at a press conference in the Media Centre, Friday (4/7), said <ack>[the two women who were in Ersas's group were Safrida (35) the wife of Lieutenant Colonel Ashari, and Soraya, Safrida's younger sister, the wife of Lieutenant Agung].

<ack> "TNI officials do not know yet the exact position where they are," Yani said who was accompanied by one of the women's, who joined

Ersa's group, husbands, namely Lt Col. Ashari. At present Ashari is assigned to the National Air Force Training Centre in Surabaya. Whereas Lt Agung is currently at school in Bandung.

According to Ashari <ack>, his wife was in Lhokseumawe to *visit her (sick) parent* [j]. But her departure with Ersas's group was not reported to her husband. <ack> "Last Wednesday I reported this matter to the TNI Military Police Unit in Lhokseumawe. I **regret** [1st af] my wife joining Ersas's group", Ashari said.

To speed up the search for the missing RCTI journalists, Lt Col. CAJ Ahmad Yani *hopes* [3rd af] that members of the community and others will give information about the location of the two RCTI journalists so that steps for their *safety* [j] can be taken.

<ack> "Last evening they phoned their homes, and they were *fine* [3rd af]. I *hope* [1st af] people will give us information about where they are so we can take steps for their *safety* [j] that will *not endanger* [j] them" Yani said.

Features of the Indonesian story



- ✓ This is very like an English hard news report, appearing factual with little 'subjectivity'.
- ✓ Of the 'subjectivity', more evaluation is attributed & is mostly inscribed;
- ✓ Yet the author's evaluations are present - explicitly negative in relation to the event - *abducted* & *kidnapped*;
- ✓ The author has taken up a position - one that most of us would hold in relation to the is kind of situation - taking innocent people as hostages during war is wrong
- ✓ Author's positive evaluations are 3rd affect - *hopes* ;
- ✓ The story is more than 50% the words of others.

Japanese story

The story uses **bare assertion**, with only two instances of **attribution**

日本経済新聞 2004年(平成16年)6月29日(火曜日)

イラクに主権移譲

テロ警戒で前倒し

14ヶ月の占領統治終了

[バーレーン=岐部秀光] イラクの連合国暫定当局(CPA)は28日午前10時(日本時間同日午後3時)過ぎ、イラク暫定政権に主権を移譲した。2003年4月のフセイン政権崩壊後、14ヶ月余りにわたる占領統治は終了し、イラク人による主権国家が誕生した。イラクは来年予定される本格政権の樹立に向け踏み出したが、米軍主体の連合軍は多国籍軍としてイラクにとどまる。反米抵抗勢力によるテロも頻発するなど、治安の悪化には歯止めがかかっておらず、新生国家の前途は多難だ。(多国籍軍は3面「きょうのこ」とば参照) =関連記事2、

来年1月に暫定議会

主権移譲は当初予定されていたが、主権移譲の式典を標的にしたテロを回避するため、これにより移譲ができなくなる事態を避けるため日程を変更したとみられる。

首都バグダッド中心部で28日に行った小規模な式典で、イラクのヤワル大統領は「歴史的な日だ」と述べ、ブレマー米文民行政官は「将来を楽観している」と発言した。式典にはほかにアラウィ首相、サレハ副首相、マフムード裁判所長官、リッチモンド英イラク特別代表が出席。ヤワル大統領らは主権移譲後、正式な宣誓式を行った。

国連安全保障理事会の決議に基づきイラクは「完全な主権」を回復する。ルセイン政権崩壊後、イラクで治安の責任を担ってきた米英主導の連合軍は多国籍軍と名称を変え駐留を継続する。暫定政権は長期的な政策に関する決定権がなくCPAが出した法令も有効だ。

アラウィ首相は式典後、記者団に対し、来年1月2日に暫定国民議会選挙の実施を予定していると述べた。

ブレマー氏はイラクに国交の再会を求めるブッシュ米大統領の親書を手渡した。米国は1990年の湾岸危機を機にイラクと断交していた。ブレマー

mostly Negative attitude:-
invoked with some
inscribed

Little Positive attitude:-
invoked by attributed voices
and some inscribed by author

Sovereignty handed over to Iraq

As a precaution against **terrorists** [j], the handover is brought forward.

The 14th month occupation of Iraq is over.

The CPA handed over sovereignty to the Iraqi provisional government just after 10am on the 28th (Japan time same day 3pm). The occupational rule which continued for 14 months following the collapse of the Hussein Government is over and, *a sovereign nation run by the Iraqi people has been born* [j]. *Iraq has begun establishing full-scale political power* [j] which will happen (after the election) next year but, **the Allied forces mainly composed of the US army will remain in Iraq as a multinational force** [j]. **The deterioration** [ap] of public safety such as incidences like the frequent occurrence of terrorism by anti American resistance forces has not been stopped and the future of the new nation is **threatened**. [ap]

Provisional Parliamentary Election January next year.

The handover of sovereignty occurred two days earlier than the 30th which was originally planned. There is a **fear** [3rd-a] that anti-American forces were planning a large scale **terrorist** [j] attack during the handover ceremony, therefore it seems that ~~in order~~ to avoid an attack which could prevent the handover, the schedule changed.

At the small scale ceremony which **was held in central Baghdad** on the 28th, the Iraqi President, Yawar said, <ack> **“(This) is an historic day”** [ap] and Bremer, the US Civilian Administrator, announced, <ack> **“the future is optimistic”**. [ap] At the ceremony, amongst others, **Prime Minister Allawi, Deputy Prime Minister Sareha, Chief Justice Al-Mahmodi, and the Special English Iraqi representative, Richmond** attended. President Yawar and others held an official Allegiance Ceremony after the handover of sovereignty.

Based on the resolution of the United Nations Security Council, Iraq is to restore “complete sovereignty”. The coalition led by US/UK which had responsibility **for public safety in Iraq** after the collapse of the Hussein government, changed its name to the multinational forces and **continues to occupy (the country)**. [j] The provisional government **doesn't have the power** [j] to decide long term policy **and laws announced by the CPA will also be valid** [j].

After the ceremony, Prime Minister Allawi said to the Press Gallery <<that the national parliamentary election due on Jan 2nd next year is being planned>>.

Mr. Bremer hand delivered a personally signed letter by President Bush, which asked for a reopening of diplomatic relations. America cut diplomatic ties with Iraq following the Gulf War of 1990. **Mr. Bremer, immediately following the completion of the handover ceremony, together with the spokesperson, Senor and others departed Iraq by air.** [j] The CPA was dissolved.

Features of the Japanese story



- ✓ the report takes a position in relation to Iraq's sovereignty - the reporter's stance is that Iraq should be restored to complete sovereignty (*kanzen na shuken*);
- ✓ It operates with both inscribed and invoked attitude;
- ✓ the few positive evaluations (attributed to other voices) suggest a positive viewpoint of the situation in Iraq and the handover...however,
- ✓ the negative evaluations outweigh the positive by dint of both their frequency of occurrence in the text and their positioning in the text.
- ✓ The situation in Iraq is portrayed negatively with the US still improperly occupying the country.
- ✓ While, this story clearly has an authorial stance, it does so using a register reasonably similar to that of English, relying heavily on bare assertion and juxtaposition, rather than attribution.

Vietnamese story

Nhân Dân

Cập nhật: 23:20 ngày 14-05-2004

Chiếc mặt nạ "nhân quyền" Mỹ bị bóc trần ở Iraq

Quả bom về tội ác của quân chiếm đóng ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq vừa mới được giới báo chí Mỹ và Anh châm ngòi đã làm chấn động công chúng Mỹ và thế giới, đang trở thành một vấn đề thời sự chính trị nóng bỏng của nước Mỹ, một vụ bê bối tiềm ẩn những hậu quả khó lường đối với nhà cầm quyền Mỹ trong khi họ đang rất lúng túng chưa tìm được giải pháp thoát khỏi vũng lầy Iraq sau một năm chiếm đóng bất hợp pháp, hao người và tốn của. Chiếc mặt nạ của quân Mỹ bị bóc trần.

Mặc dù ra sức bưng bít, kiểm duyệt thông tin về hoạt động của quân Mỹ tại Iraq, nhưng đến lúc này, chính quyền của Tổng thống Bush đã không còn kiểm soát được tình hình. Những bức ảnh lính Mỹ ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq được tung ra đúng lúc quân Mỹ tại Iraq liên tiếp bị tiến công ở nhiều nơi và thương vong nặng nề. Nhiều người Mỹ khi được xem những bức ảnh, nghe những câu chuyện của người tù, cai tù... nói về cảnh lính Mỹ giết hại dân thường, ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq, đã bầy tỏ sự bất bình, kinh hoàng và cảm thấy xấu hổ, nhục nhã cho đội quân tự xưng là "những người giải phóng" cho nhân dân Iraq. Họ lên án giới cầm quyền đã lừa dối, bưng bít và làm sai lệch thông tin. Ủy ban Quân lực Thượng nghị viện đã yêu cầu Bộ trưởng Quốc phòng Rumsfeld và các tướng lĩnh liên quan điều tra làm rõ và xử phạt những binh sĩ phạm tội. Tổng thống Mỹ Bush, Thủ tướng Anh Blair phải đưa ra lời xin lỗi về những hành vi của liên quân ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq và hứa hẹn điều tra làm rõ những hành vi này. Bộ chỉ huy quân Mỹ tại Iraq quyết định sẽ đưa một cai tù tại nhà tù Abu Ghraib ra xét xử tại Tòa án Quân sự Mỹ.

Tuy nhiên, dư luận cho rằng những biện pháp xử lý của nhà cầm quyền Mỹ là chưa thỏa đáng, chưa đủ và quá muộn. Ngày càng có nhiều người dân Iraq đòi quân Mỹ phải rút khỏi Iraq. Nhà cầm quyền Mỹ đang tìm mọi cách thu hẹp ảnh hưởng và nhanh chóng dập tắt vụ bê bối này. Họ yêu cầu báo chí Mỹ không công bố thêm những tài liệu về hành vi ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq. Song xem ra, chính quyền Bush khó có thể lấp liếm vụ bê bối này. Cuộc chiến tranh can thiệp của Mỹ vào Iraq làm cho hình ảnh nước Mỹ xấu đi, nay lại thêm những mảnh dơ bẩn mới. Cuộc nổi dậy chống Mỹ ở Iraq ngày càng mạnh và thực tế liên quân buộc phải có những nhượng bộ mà nhiều nhà phân tích cho là thất bại. Mới đây, Tòa án thế giới về Iraq với "Đoàn bồi thẩm lương tâm" gồm 14 người là những chiến sĩ hòa bình, học giả, lãnh đạo nghiệp đoàn ra tuyên bố tại New York rằng Mỹ đã phạm tội ác chiến tranh ở Iraq. Ủy ban Chữ thập đỏ quốc tế đã có những hồ sơ và báo cáo về tội ác của liên quân ở Iraq. Tổ chức này cho rằng, tình trạng ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq, vi phạm luật pháp quốc tế và diễn ra có hệ thống ở tất cả các nhà tù do quân Mỹ, Anh cai quản, cho thấy đây là chủ trương chứ không phải là những hành vi của các cá nhân cai tù. Bộ trưởng Ngoại giao các nước A-rập đã kịch liệt lên án các hành động "mất hết tính người" của binh sĩ Mỹ tại các nhà tù Iraq. Tổ chức Ân xá quốc tế đã tố cáo binh sĩ Anh sát hại thường dân Iraq, những người hoàn toàn không có khả năng tạo ra các mối đe dọa. Ngay cả những đồng minh thân cận của phe chủ chiến như Thủ tướng Italy S. Berlusconi, Thủ tướng Australia J.Howard cũng phải lên án những hành động phi nhân tính của liên quân Mỹ - Anh.

Vụ bê bối lính Mỹ, Anh ngược đãi tù nhân Iraq đang diễn biến và cuốn hút sự quan tâm của dư luận quốc tế và các tổ chức hữu quan. Vụ bê bối này một lần nữa lên lên bức màn mà lâu nay nhà cầm quyền Mỹ cố che đậy bản chất thực của cái gọi là "chính sách nhân quyền" do họ lạm dụng để đánh lừa dư luận, đe dọa, can thiệp và vu cáo làm hại các quốc gia độc lập và có chủ quyền khác trên thế giới. Báo cáo hằng năm của Bộ Ngoại giao Mỹ về cái gọi là "tình hình nhân quyền" tại các nước là lá bài thời, không thể đánh lừa dư luận. Những ngày qua, hàng loạt nhà nghiên cứu chính sách và lịch sử Mỹ đã liên tiếp phê phán thói trịch thượng và bất chấp của giới cầm quyền Mỹ trong cư xử các vấn đề quốc tế và yêu cầu hãy dẹp những đống rác nhân quyền ngay trong nhà mình trước đã.

Cuộc chiến tranh đơn phương của Mỹ tại Iraq đang diễn ra phức tạp, căng thẳng ngoài sự kiểm soát của chính quyền Mỹ. Uy tín của Tổng thống Mỹ Bush, Thủ tướng Anh T.Blair đã giảm xuống mức thấp nhất kể từ khi họ lên cầm quyền. Tỷ lệ ủng hộ Công đảng của ông Blair chỉ còn 32% số cử tri được hỏi ý kiến và chỉ có 36% số phiếu ủng hộ ông Blair nếu bầu cử diễn ra vào thời điểm này (chỉ số thấp nhất từ 17 năm nay). Ở Mỹ, số người ủng hộ Tổng thống Bush chỉ còn 46% so với 49% tuần trước. Làn sóng phản nộ và lên án tội ác chiến tranh của Mỹ tại Iraq tiếp tục lên cao, lan rộng và gây ra những hậu quả cho chính những kẻ đi gieo rắc đau khổ và tai nạn cho người khác.

XUÂN HIỆU

Paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 use bare assertions to present authorial position

America's <dist> "human rights" mask [j] stripped off [j] in Iraq

The scandalous bomb [j] of the invaders' crime [j] in abusing Iraqi prisoners [j], which has shaken [j] the American as well as the international public after having been ignited [j] by US and UK media, is now becoming a hot [ap] political issue of the States. This is a scandal [j] which entails potential negative consequences to the US authority who are (at the same time) puzzled [af] by the problem of getting out of the Iraqi swamp [ap] after one year of costly illegal occupation [j]. The American troops' mask [j] has been stripped off [j].

Despite efforts to hide and censor [j] information about US troops in Iraq, President Bush's government has now no control [j] of the situation. Photos of US soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners have been continuously publicized while at the same time US troops have faced non-stop attacks [ap] in many places and heavy losses [ap]. Many Americans, after seeing photos and hearing stories from prisoners and guards <ack> about US soldiers killing civilians [j] and abusing Iraqi prisoners [j] showed their discontent [3rdaf], consternation [3rdaf] and felt ashamed [3rdaf] of those "<dist> fight-for-freedom [j]" troops. They condemned <end> the American authorities for having cheated [j], hidden [j] and distorted [j] the truth. The Upper House Committee of Military Force has demanded <ack> that the Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and the related commanders inspect [j] and punish [j] those alleged soldiers. US President and UK Prime Minister have to give [end] apologies [j] for US and allied troops' acts of Iraqi prisoner abuse and promise to carry out inspections to clarify their conduct [j]. The commanding division of American troops in Iraq has decided to bring a guard at Abu Ghraib prison before a US military court.

However, according to the public, <ack> the US authority's solutions are still unsatisfactory [ap], insufficient [ap] and too late [ap]. More and more Iraqi people are demanding <ack> US troops withdraw [j] from Iraq. The US government is trying hard to reduce their influence [j] and wants to get out of the scandal [j] as soon as possible. They asked <ack> the press not to provide anymore evidence of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. However, it seems <ent> difficult [ap] for the US government to hide this scandal [j]. The American image, which has been smudged [j] by the intervention war (in Iraq), has now got more dirty [ap] parts. The resistance

Paragraphs 2 and 3 use attribution to support the authorial position

[j] against America in Iraq is becoming stronger [j] and, in fact, <proclaim> allied troops have had to make some concessions which are seen by analysts <ack> as failure [j]. Recently, a world court on Iraqi matters consisting of a "conscience jury" [j] made up of 14 members who are peace activists [j], academics and consortium leaders has made a statement in New York <ack> that America has committed war crimes [j] in Iraq. The International Red Cross has filed documents of allied troops' crimes in Iraq. The organization stated <ack> that the fact that abused prisoners are found in all prisons managed by US and British troops shows that this is systematic [j] and directed [j], not just a personal act. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of UEA strongly condemned <ack> the US soldiers' "inhumane" acts [j] in Iraq's prisons. Amnesty International has alleged <ack> that British soldiers are killing Iraqi civilians [j], who definitely cannot create any threats [j]. Even close allies of the warlike [ap] group like Italian Prime Minister S. Berlusconi or Australian Prime Minister J. Howard also criticized the US-British soldiers' inhumane [j] acts.

The scandal [j] of US-British soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners [j] is still going on and drawing attention from the international public as well as related organizations. This scandal [j] has once more unveiled a truth [j] that the US government has always tried to hide [j]– the nature of the so-called <dist> "human rights policy" [j], which they have used to cheat [j] the public, threaten [j], intervene [j] and harm [j] other independent and sovereign nations. The US State Department's reports of the so-called <dis> "human rights situation" [j] in other countries is just a dirty [ap] card, which cannot be used to cheat [j] the public. For the last several days, a number of researchers of US policy and history have continuously criticized the arrogance [j] and defiance [j] of US authorities in dealing with international matters and have asked <ack> them to first get rid of the domestic human rights pile of rubbish [j].

The US one-way [ap] war in Iraq is going on with complication [j], tension [j] and against the expectations [j] of the US government. US President Bush's and UK P.M Blair's credibility has fallen [j] to the lowest level since the beginning of their terms. The wave of anger [3rdaf] and criticism [j] of US war crimes [j] in Iraq continues to rise and results in bad effects for those who sow misery [j] and cause misfortune [j] for others.

the story overwhelmingly uses explicit, negative attitude. The reporter and the other voices clearly take an anti-American stance using inscriptions as the evaluative strategy of choice.

When positive evaluation occurs, it is in relation to the authorial position that America's strategy of using the rhetoric of human rights as a guise for interfering in the affairs of sovereign states is exposed

Features of the Vietnamese story



To sum up,

- ✓ this article presents an authorial position
- ✓ It is explicitly anti-American, explicitly negatively evaluating the US and their actions in Iraq.
- ✓ Inscribed positive evaluations occur in relation to the exposure of the US 'human rights' strategy.
- ✓ The reporter's opinion is clearly evident as bare assertion
- ✓ It is supported by other voices who also disapprove of America's actions.
- ✓ The other voices serve to endorse the reporter's position that the US is not in control in Iraq, and is thus another example of the interfering foreign policy that America propagates.

Comparison of registers..

English

- ✓ the 'voice' of hard news is 'factual', 'neutral' and free of 'subjectivity'
- ✓ avoids interpersonal meanings which indicate opinion.
 - ✓ For eg. Avoids explicit value judgments
 - ✓ Avoids explicit appreciation and affect,
- ✓ Uses bare assertions and attribution

Indonesian

- ✓ Very like English - with little subjectivity

Japanese

- ✓ Like English - with an authorial stance which avoids explicit attitude by author, using juxtaposition and invocation to present an authorial stance

Vietnamese

- ✗ Unlike English - having a very explicit authorial stance, realised by explicit attitude in bare assertions and also within attribution.

Thank you..



Martin, J.R. & White, P.R.R. (2005) *The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English*, Palgrave Macmillan: London