Abstract
The development of new communication and information media (ICT) has a considerable impact on the development of the language system, including written discourse. The purpose of this paper is to describe recent changes in written English, which have been caused by the arrival of ICT. Moreover, it also characterizes academic register and explores implications for the teaching of academic writing at university level.

Keywords
written discourse, changes, academic writing, teaching

1 Introduction
Modern information and communication technologies including the Internet have changed the way of communication drastically. People’s communication is much faster in transmission, less carefully planned and often not well conceived. As Crystal (2002) presents it, the Internet is a completely new medium of linguistic communication, taking some of the properties of the two traditional mediums, speech and writing, synthesizing them in a novel way, and adding further properties which were unavailable to either. He calls this new language netspeak. Netspeak is neither speech nor writing. It is a medium of language which communicates in unique ways. Furthermore, some ICT media, such as social network facebooks or chat groups, make written speech less structured, more abbreviated in its expressions and less formal. Others, such as eLearning, used in education, tries to motivate and encourage a learner in his/her studies and therefore its content must be more dynamic and eye-catching to engage the learner. In general, written speech is tending to become more overtly dialogic.

To sum up, common features of IT discourse of communication are the following (cf. Figure 1):
- dialogic form of communication;
- interactiveness and dynamism of a text (animation and movement; change of size and shapes; icons which attract attention);
- heuristic kind of text (it should make a reader think, be active);