Abstract
The objective of the paper is to examine the use of non-finite clauses, more specifically to-infinitive clauses, in written academic discourse and the application of their syntactic and semantic properties in a selected corpus. Based on Quirk et al.’s (1985) subdivision they can be viewed as formal means of text formation and may have nominal, relative and adverbial meaning. This functional classification resembles to some extent that of subclausal units such as noun phrases and adverbs. The analysis focuses on subordinate to-infinitive clauses in selected papers found in Topics in Linguistics, an international scientific journal published by the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia. Moreover, it tries to investigate possible differences in the application of the presented structure by native and non-native writers of English.

Key words
non-finite to-infinitive clauses, nominal to-infinitive clauses, stance, research papers, native writers, non-native writers

1 Introduction
Professional research writing has been conceptualized as a formal type of academic writing, the grammatical features of which are different from those of other types of discourse. Apart from some other grammatical devices, grammatical compression in academic discourse may be expressed with the use of non-finite to-infinitive clauses, which are the main focus of this paper. As far as terminology is concerned, to-infinitive clauses are viewed as subtypes of non-finite subordinate clauses. For Quirk et al. (1985: 1062) these are valuable sources of compression possessing nominal, adverbial and relative functions. In their nominal function they often indicate that the proposition they express is viewed as a possibility or a proposal rather than something already fulfilled. Similarly, Huddleston and Pullum (2005: 212-222) deal with a wide range of functions and uses of to-infinitivals with the extra reference to interrogative infinitives and simple versus complex catenative constructions. Alexander (1988: 303) comments on some common uses of to-infinitive clauses such as those of purpose with in order to and so as to (1), the latter event in a sequence – an event