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LANGUAGE AND INTERNET

In the 21st century the role of a language in a cyberspace becomes increasingly important. Apart from the unique opportunities, internet is full of uncertainties. Naturally, a large variety of questions come to mind. What are the changes that the language undergoes in the global web? What are the impacts of internet technology and whether it is possible to standardize the language of internet? Not only the linguists but also professionals of other fields carry out research to find the answers.

Depending on the sphere of application, 6 styles have been identified: the language of the e-mail messages, the so-called chats, the virtual world, various websites, blogs and instant messaging. These varieties of internet language could be grouped as a) dialogues or monologues, b) synchronous or asynchronous.

Stylistic specificities of each internet genre depend on four distinctive features: 1) the function of the message, i.e. its goal; 2) technical capacities; 3) special linguistic features; and 4) identity of participants.

Extensive use of internet as a communication tool indeed means a radical social change. The novelty of the millennium – a new sphere of language relations will definitely affect the language.