6.3 Is new media technology changing English?

It is understandable that we should ask what effect, if any, new media technology is having on the English language. Can we tell, for example, if English is changing? What evidence should we look for, and where? If there are changes, are they significant, lasting? How can we go about exploring these changes in English?

The most obvious indication of change is the introduction of new words or word forms, many of which are used internationally, to refer to new media and new media practices. Some examples of these are listed in Table 6.2 (n. = noun; v. = verb).