

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear friends and former colleagues,

In the article “**From Pedagogy to Lexicography and Back**” by **Geoff Toister (ETAI Forum XXIV, 3, 2013)**, I was very gratified to find that “Lexical Syllabus”, part of the English Curriculum 1988 of the Ministry of Education, was listed in the bibliography, and thereby saved from total oblivion. After my retirement in 1992 as Chief Inspector for English, there were a number of rather ignorant and false press reports claiming that this Syllabus or Curriculum focused overwhelmingly on grammatical structures to the detriment of vocabulary acquisition.

This Syllabus/Curriculum was based on the concept of **communicative competence and performance**, subdivided **into linguistic competence, pragmatic competence and sociolinguistic competence**. What was lacking in the vocabulary section of “linguistic competence” was, of course, terminology relating to the digital age. The lexemes listed for the Primary School and Intermediate Division (“Junior High”) were the basis for the Kernerman dictionary “Passport” (English-Hebrew, with sample sentences and a Hebrew-English lexicon at the end of the book), written by the late Yaakov Levi and myself.

Geoff Toister was employed as a lexicographer (together with Yaakov Levi and myself) for the “Kernerman Advanced English Dictionary”, which I also edited. A monolingual edition (i.e. no translation) is available as an app on most smartphones; semibilingual editions are available with Russian, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Estonian translations (so far). Hebrew and Arabic semi-bilingual editions are not yet available on the market.

*Raphael Gefen*



**Save the date for the summer conference!**



**Make your plans now!**

**July 8-9th, 2014**

**Jerusalem**