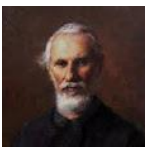


SHANGHAI

Last week in Shanghai
We came back from the future
To stone-age Auckland
And the end of history
We surfed a gleaming surface
Highrise capitalism
Secure socialism
No need for criticism
Gods of technology
Huawei and Alipay
QR codes for menus and orders
Every byway is a four-lane highway
Every high-rise housing estate
Equals to a suburb in Auckland
Clean and trying to be green
Growing vines on concrete piles
Vast subway lines shift millions
Glued to phones
Checking bargains and deals
DMall is the latest craze
Teenage cos play
EVs on sale in every shopping mall
Every brand, East meets West
Everything is the best of the best
Manufactured in plastic-fantastic
Robots serving ice cream noodles
Eat, eat, sleep, sleep
In a workers' paradise
Nobody shanghaied anymore
Even on Der Bund
In Shanghai
Xie xie

Bionote:



Wolfgang B. Sperlich is a semi-retired linguist (with a PhD from the University of Auckland, and a book about Noam Chomsky), lexicographer (editor of the Niue Language Dictionary) and English teacher, having worked in various places around the world.

Wolfgang's ancestors hail from the German speaking regions in the Czech Republic. Born in Germany, he migrated to Aotearoa in the early 70s. India is his favourite travel destination. His most recent publication is an art-poetry book in association with well-known Aotearoa artist Tuwharetoa Southon (see <https://rubezahl.com>). Wolfgang also maintains a blog, featuring some of his poems, as well as many articles on politics, literature and of course linguistics (see: wolfgangsperrlich.blogspot.com).