

Parasite : Decoding the Visual Aesthetics and Subtext

Dr. Jushna Baruah

Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, S.B. Deorah College (Assam)
(baruajushna@gmail.com)

Abstract

South Korean society is plagued by Class division and wealth disparity. This social issue has been represented on screen many times. However, director Bong Joon Ho's cinematic treatment of this social ill is one of its kind. Winner of four Academy Awards, Bong Joon Ho's *Parasite* has the issue of class struggle as its main thematic focus. Using the metaphor of the *Parasite*, Director Bong Joon Ho depicts the polarisation of society into the rich and the poor. The life of socially privileged upper class Parks is contrasted with that of the poverty-ridden Kims. The Kims gain employment under the Parks by faking their identities. This game of deception and its disastrous consequences are highlighted through a series of visual images and metaphors. Simultaneously, other cinematic tools like shot selection, framing, mise-en scene also aid in the construction of meaning. The present paper is an attempt to understand how the theme of class struggle is articulated through the play of these semiotic signifiers. The visual images used by Bong Joon bear both a literal and metaphorical significance. The paper seeks to explore the embedded meanings that the visual motifs signify and add to the meaning of the text.

Keywords : Parasite, Class, Metaphor, Identity, Polarisation