

Joseph Foley

Professor Brandon Shenk

Film Appreciation

22 April 2022

Critical Analysis: Parasite

The film *Parasite* (2019) directed by Bong Joon-Ho is about an all-unemployed family struggling to make money to pay for trivial things such as Wi-Fi. This family eventually swindles their way into getting multiple jobs working for the rich family the Parks. There are four people in the Kim family and their names are Ki-taek the father, Chung-sook the mother, Ki-jung the daughter, and Ki-woo the son. This movie is taken place in Seoul South Korea and is very suspenseful with a huge climax. This film has a lot of elements that encompasses the director's vision, which include the sound design and video editing, cinematography, script, and as well as how they relate to social, political, and economic issues.

The movie shows the Kim family has a parasite that is taking money from the rich family the Parks. They do this by allowing Ki-woo to get a job working inside of the Parks house. Ki-woo eventually finds a way to make his sister work there and then the rest of the family eventually comes. The development in the script is very detailed and thought-out in the way the story progresses. The script is very detailed and makes the movie feel more realistic which gives the characters emotions to be shown. Each character is very unique with their own personal dilemmas throughout the film. The script itself is neither a comedy or drama and is very suspenseful. One moment in the movie can be funny and relatable, and then the next something bizarre and unexpected occurs, the characters all have their way of dealing with certain things.

The script is very well written because there is always something happening in the movie that keeps the viewers interested.

There is a lot of effort put into the video and sound design of the movie. For example, in the scene where the whole Kim family is in the Parks dining room with their hands held up by the maid and her husband. There are a lot of sound elements in this scene which include the groaning of everyone fighting each other, the rain in the background, the dogs barking, and the extremely loud music. Even when Chung-sook is on the phone you can hear her heartbeat starting to rise as she realizes the Parks are on their way home. I believe this is the best scene in the movie because it is following the introduction of the climax where they met the previous parasites of the house. All of these sound elements used at once makes this scene really chaotic but also enchanting in a way. This scene encompasses a lot of video design techniques as well, showing the cut to where the maid and her husband enjoyed their time alone by dancing when the Parks were not home. This scene also shows a camera angel that can be seen through a phone taking a video. I believe that made the scene feel a lot more intense and using these video and sound design examples completely enhanced this scene altogether.

The cinematography of the movie showed its relevance in social, political, economic, and artistic contexts. The movie relates to economic issues as the Kim family is struggling to provide for themselves, they needed to leech on to others for money. It shows how these characters will act in situations just because they are greedy and need money. For example, lying to the Parks about their names and backgrounds to get jobs. The difference in the families could symbolize the social classes of South Korea. The film itself has a major influence on Korean society because it showed the difference in poor to rich people. It showed the number of hardships the Kim family was going through, meanwhile the Parks were complaining about trivial things such

as their previous art tutors did not satisfy them enough. *Parasite (2019)* relates to the political disparity between their society. South Korea has a major disbalance in economic wealth and *parasite* does a great job of showing that disbalance. For example, in the movie, the man that was hiding in the Park family's basement had debt collectors after him, he was so poor he needed to turn to them and made it even worse. The same thing can be seen in other Korean films and tv shows such as in *Squid game*. This movie did a good job at addressing the social, economic, and political issues that are currently occurring in South Korea.

A film technique that was commonly used throughout the movie would be symmetry. It is commonly used in the movie as seen in staircases around the city, as well as in the Parks house. It is very nice and symmetrical which allows it to appeal to the viewer. It can also be seen in the majority of film with a line that crosses in between the different families in certain scenes. This might also be there to show a difference in social classes between the families. Another film technique that was used in the majority of the scenes is the camera zooming in. The camera zooms in very slowly as each scene is progressing in the beginning the of movie. This can be seen in the scene where they load pizza boxes in the car when they are talking to the woman about if they can get a job. This film technique is useful in showing how the film is able to progress.

In general, this movie was effective at showing the societal and economic difference in South Korea. It was able to successfully show how much poor people such as the Kim family struggle, while rich people such as the Parks live life comfortably. The film had really good cinematography that enhanced the overall experience with the movie. There were camera techniques that were commonly used throughout the film that could still surprise the audience when used. This really enhanced the overall experience of the film. I personally had a great

experience with the film, and I am pretty sad that I did not watch this movie when it first came out in the theaters.

Works Cited

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