

Parasite's best picture triumph could begin a new era for the Oscars

Something just bust out of the basement. Parasite's **stunning** best picture Oscar win — the very first for a film wholly not in the English **tongue** — has finally cracked wide open the **ghetto** of “foreign-language” cinema, that most patronising and LA-centric of designations.

stunning 极好的; 震耳欲聋的

tongue 舌头; 语言

ghetto 犹太人区; 贫民区

Past best picture winners The Last Emperor (1988) and Slumdog Millionaire (2009) both had large chunks of their dialogue in a foreign language, but they were also both to varying degrees products of the Hollywood system. Parasite is a pure outsider to the American studio cabal. It has run with easy confidence through awards season to **snatch** the biggest prize of all in a potentially **paradigm**-shifting win.

snatch 抓住; 夺取

paradigm 范式

Huge though this undoubtedly is for Bong, it could be even bigger for the Oscars. Fully embracing the widest possible definition of cinema could be a chance for the awards to reclaim the mainstream relevancy the awards have **surrendered** over the last 20 years. Bong hit the nail on the head when he said: “The Oscars are not an international film festival. They’re very local.” But becoming a ceremony for all cinema, and not just that in the English language, could restore the Oscars’ **primacy**.

surrender 投降; 放弃

primacy 首位; 卓越

American films would still dominate an internationalised Oscars, as they do the global box office. But surely the sense of excitement would be heightened if other players were more readily admitted to the top table. Language should matter less in this day and age, as Bong pointed out with typical **succinctness** in his comment about the “one-inch high barrier of subtitles”. Only the **Anglophone** markets cling to this prejudice.

succinctness 简明; 简洁

anglophone 英语语系

cling to 坚持; 依附

prejudice 偏见; 损害