

Cognitive metaphor: EXPERIENCES ARE FLIGHTS

Parrots are flying creatures. While they are adept climbers without their wings, they rely on flight for almost all their movement, as much as humans rely on walking. This leads to pervasive metaphor involving flight.

- *There's a headwind/tailwind northward.*

...or in whichever direction movement is desired, perhaps another cardinal direction (which would be understood to be alluding to the idiom), or something more specific to the situation, perhaps “profitward” if you’re building a business, or “skillward” if you’re training to learn something. The feel I’m aiming for could possibly be achieved with an allative case placed on things that normally don’t take an allative case.

The meaning of this metaphor is that the future experience will be hard and long/easy and short. This is like the English metaphor of “the path ahead is long and difficult”, but parrots don’t use paths, they fly. A headwind will make flight slower and more difficult, while a tailwind will make flight faster and easier.

- *to fly with one wing*

The meaning of this metaphor is to not put in effort. Humans can make some attempt to run with one leg, but parrots absolutely cannot fly with one wing. So, if you fly with one wing, you won’t accomplish anything. Interestingly, I couldn’t find any equivalent metaphors related to walking in any languages I know. It does bear some resemblance to “half-baked” or “half-assed” though.

(Fun fact: according to Wiktionary, “half-assed” is etymologically a humorous alternation of “haphazard”.)

- Additionally there will be some double meanings in common vocabulary based on experiences as flights.

glide	have an easy job, like “cruise” in English
take off	get started, gain momentum, like “take off” in English, which is also a flight-based metaphor
land, alight	finish
fly up	search, or gain perspective

Cognitive metaphor: SPEECH IS SONG

While researching, I learned that parrots' logical thinking does not occur in the cerebral cortex, but rather in the HVC (an acronym that no longer has meaning), which is the area of the brain responsible for birdsong. Parrots famously can copy human speech, but they can also copy musical sounds and melodies. So, the parrots in my world will have no significant distinction between language, birdsong, and music.

- *to have/lack a melody*

The meaning of this metaphor is to have/lack a point in an story, discussion, or argument. In English, we might instead use “theme”, “motif”, or “point”. The first two happen to also be used for music, but they are general terms that apply to artwork, ideas, science, and so on. In my language, “melody” will only apply to music and speech.

- *to sing someone's song*

The meaning of this metaphor is to advocate for someone else's ideas. It's also possible *to sing a different song [from other birds]*, which means to have a novel, radical idea. Both forms can be with a positive or negative connotation.

- Additionally there will be some double meanings in common vocabulary based on experiences as flights.

language <i>or</i>	
birdsong <i>or</i>	these will all be the same word, distinguished by adjectives
music	when necessary
twitter	talk annoyingly, like “yap” in English, which is based on dogs
rhythm	consistency, reliability
writing	“etched song”, since they write by scratching their beaks on
musical	bark
instrument	some form of “talker”