Consistency between verbal and constructional arguments can be found in Mandarin resultatives as in (1), though mismatches between them are not uncommon as in (2)-(4). Despite this difference, (1)-(4) are all object-oriented resultatives and involve causal relation between grammatical subjects and objects (underlined parts): (data from Chinese Gigaword; CL=classifier; ASP=aspect marker)

(1) Zhè qún bàotú cèng yǐ duǎndǎo kān-sǐ le yí míng jǐngchá.
the:CL:bandit once with dagger slash-dead ASP one:CL:police
“The bandits once slashed a police officer to death with daggers.”

(2) Rèlàng zhíshāō rè-sǐ le sīshíwàng zhī jǐ.
heat:wave at:least hot-dead ASP 400,000:CL:chicken
“The heat wave caused at least 400,000 chickens to die.”

(3) Mēiguó zhíkòng shǎdān húshēng è-sǐ rénmín.
U.S. accuse Saddam: Hussein hungry-dead people
“The U.S. accused Saddam Hussein of starving the people to death.”

(4) Wèiérgāng chī-sǐ le sì ge rén.
Viagra eat-dead ASP 4:CL:person
“Four people died from taking Viagra.”

To account for the licensing of the arguments in (1)-(4), a constructional approach is resorted to: NP1 and NP2 in the construction [NP1 V-si NP2] are Causer and Causee, respectively, which combine with whatever roles V provides. Verbs (or adjectives) allowed in the four sub-constructions above vary. A corpus search of Chinese Gigaword shows the following results (following Levin’s (1993) classification):

Type (1) allows, among others, verbs of contact by impact (e.g. qiāo “to knock”, zhuàng “to hit”, tī “to kick”, cì “to stab”, yào “to bite”, shè “to shoot”), verbs of cutting (kān “to slash”), verbs of exerting force (yā “to press”, jǐ “to push; to squeeze”), verbs of killing (shā “to kill”, dú “to poison”, lèi “to strangle”, diào “to hang”, yān “to drown”, mēn “to suffocate”). Type (2) allows adjectives such as lěng “cold”, rè “hot”, là “spicy”, and xián “salty”; Type (3) allows adjectives such as è “hungry”, qì “angry”, lèi “tired”, and fán “annoyed”. Type (4) allows verbs such as chī “to eat” and hē “to drink”.

To summarize, Type (1) allows highly transitive verbs; Type (2) allows adjectives which describe properties that kill; Type (3) allows adjectives which express human physical conditions or psychological emotions. Type (4) allows verbs of ingesting. These constraints are encoded in the four sub-constructions.

One virtue of the constructional approach is that it accommodates verbs as well as adjectives (which usually are stative) in the V slot of [NP1 V-si NP2]. Our analysis not only captures language facts but also explains the diverse verbal and constructional relations in (1)-(4). The unified analysis is preferred on theoretical grounds. The four sub-constructions have peculiarities of their own, while inheriting properties from the general one.