

# Catch Phrase Construction“X”Assassin Analysis

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**Abstract:** The basic idea of construction grammar is that the language we humans use is made up of constructs. A construction is composed of form and meaning, and the relationship between these two aspects is not that of several groups. The meaning of simple addition of components, but social conventions. There are a large number of phrases in modern Chinese. When the stable fixed structure, such as “neng X jiu X”, “fei X bu ke”, “X jiu bu yong shuo le” and so on, among which the buzzword construction “X” assassin also conforms to this characteristic. There are parts of these sentence structures that can be replaced and parts that can’t. Many of these structures have been studied by scholars. The vocabulary of modern Chinese is constantly updated with the development of society, so this paper briefly discusses the construction of the new buzzword “X” assassin in 2022.

**Keywords:** “X”; “Assassin”; Construction Grammar

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## 1. Analysis on the meaning of “X” assassin Construction

### 1.1 Analysis of the meaning of “assassin”

The word “assassin” has three meanings. The first meaning: In Analytical Dictionary of Characters, The explanation of “thorn” is: the emperor killed the doctor and said thorn. Stab, straight wound also. I have heard from you as an inch of flame or flame. “Guest” interpretation is: to send also. The Shih Chi by Sima Qian explains the “assassin” as: ““The great man of chivalry is the assassin” I think the meaning of assassins is should refer to the integrity of character and the directness of actions of assassins, who are a group of people with special talents privately cultivated by a nobleman. We know, therefore, that these assassins did not act for personal gain, but in return for the good treatment they received as guests. So the word “assassin” in this context often carries a sense of respect, not the same as the thief or the like. The second meaning: “stab” in Literary Expositor interpretation is: Stab, kill also. The third meaning: The word “assassin” in the seventh edition of the modern Chinese dictionary is found to mean “one who carries weapons to assassinate”. Now it can also refer to a profession, the killing of a particular target; It’s also commonly used to mean hiding in the dark to give you a fatal blow when you’re not looking. For example The assassin tried to kill the Duke of Zhou, who was saved by Yin Danfang. Zhou Gong finally saved the day. The second and third are both derogatory<sup>[1]</sup>.

### 1.2 The semantic analysis of “X” assassin construction

The structural formula “X” assassin originally came from “ice cream assassin”. The price of ice cream bars skyrocketed in 2022, are the ones that hide in the mass of ice cream, look pretty cheap, but when you take it to pay, the ice cream is expensive and it’s like an assassin stabbing you out of the blue. you are a little embarrassed, just to the mouth of the words do not know how to say, After a little hesitation, you gritted your teeth and paid the money. Out of the door but was angry, the heart always can’t say To the feeling, only feel the eyes of the ice cream bar stabbed a sword. With the extremely fast propagation speed of the network, it gradually evolved. It gives rise to similar structures and gives rise to two the meaning of constructions: the first meaning that someone is victimized by something, However, it has a derogatory and ironic meaning. Like Incense pot assassin. (Random order, The bill is very high), Coriander Assassin (movies and TV series disguised as Xian Xian propaganda, but the actual propaganda does not match), Hot search assassin (according to your favorite big data to recommend you a variety of hot search, click inside to find the first advertising), Potato assassin (the unfashionable yogurt in the supermarket, but the bill is sky-high), the potato assassin (the order is large Plate the chicken and found that two thirds of it was potatoes)... The second meaning is to have a positive meaning, to speak highly of someone. Someone who stands out in some way is a big hit, but is used sparingly, such as : Stage assassin

(someone who looks ordinary but creates amazing effects for the audience on stage), Entertainment assassin (someone who catches a doll by surprise). To sum up, we believe that the first construction sense of the structural expression “x”assassin should come from the second and third sense of “assassin”. The second construction sense of “X” assassin should be a continuation of the first sense of “assassin”. But according to our corpus collection, the meaning expressed by “X” assassin is more inclined to the first construction meaning<sup>[2]</sup>.

## 2. Variable term and invariant term in “X” assassin construction

### 2.1 Invariant “assassin”

“assassin” is the main semantic builder in the assassin structure of “X”. The part of speech is a noun. Can not be omitted, limited elements, can not be changed, once changed, the structure will face the collapse of lexical form, The fixed term “assassin” can be used either before the variable term “X”. Such as ice cream assassin”, “Plane ticket assassin”, “Fruit assassin” and so on. Occasionally used before the variable “X”, such as Assassin lotus seed”, “Assassin ginger”, “Assassin nut”. Even “Assassin” can be used alone, without the variable “X”, but this case The condition is conditional, that is, “assassin” must be used in context alone, the general situation In this case, the price of the product is listed in the second half of the sentence, and sometimes it is not. For example:

Why are there so many assassins in the fruit class? Two tangerines. That’s more than 60. ( zhihu )

I met an assassin out today. 80 bucks for a water cup. ( Sina microblog )

Bought an ice cream , it is a assassin, but delicious. ( Sina microblog )

Variable term “X”

Variable “X” In the searched corpus, “X” can enter the construction meaning in the following forms. The first: can be a noun and enter the construction of the noun is generally a common noun, and is a commodity, is can use the price is defined by the noun. For example:Cilantro, ice cream, potatoes, hot search, ginger, cookies, yogurt and so on.The second one can be verb-object phrases. For example:如“Beauty assassin”, “Taxi assassin”, “Skincare assassin”, “Nail assassin”and so on.The third kind can be separable words, but the number is small, only three cases have been searched so far.Such as:“Hair-cutting assassin”, “Bath assassin”, “Married assassin”.

The variable “X” is basically two-syllable words. At present, no words with one syllable or more than two syllables have been searched.

The variable “X” is made up of Chinese, and is rarely made up of other languages. Only one of the corpus searched so far consists of English.When Gao Yuanyuan meets the emoji Assassin. ( Sina microblog )

## 3. Syntax function of “X” assassin

Construction “X” assassin is a biased construction. According to our analysis of the existing corpus, The “X” assassin has two syntactic features. First, it can act as an independent syntactic component, object, subject and attribute in a sentence. Second, it can be a separate sentence, independent use of an angry accent, and “!” Use in combination<sup>[3]</sup>.

### 3.1 Act as an object

( 1 ) Have you ever encountered a fruit assassin? These fruits are really more expensive than you think. ( Chengdu Commercial Daily )

( 2 ) Make your own ice cream and learn to stop being afraid of ice cream assassins and make as many as you want. ( Sina microblog )

( 3 ) Is the Rocker Chicken House a potato assassin? ( Douyin )

( 4 ) Do you want to take out the ice cream assassins? ( Zhihu )

The construction has a special use when it serves as an object in a sentence. It is used in the “by” sentence. To express a rhetorical question, seeking the other party’s approval. Or in a declarative sentence to express frustration, such as:

( 1 ) A neutral pen costs 55 yuan. Have you been stabbed by a ‘stationery assassin’? ( Douyin )

( 2 ) The price of shared power bank is rising quietly. Have you been stabbed by the “electric treasure assassin” recently? ( Zhihu )

( 3 ) I went to charge my phone bill today, and I got stabbed by a phone bill assassin. ( Sina microblog )

### 3.2 Be the subject

( 1 ) In our little town, ice cream assassins don’t exist. ( Sina microblog )

( 2 ) Free yogurt assassin is fragrant. ( Sina microblog )

( 3 ) Mattress assassins specialize in harvesting society's elite? ( Zhihu )

( 4 ) Ice cream Assassins Kill ice cream assassins. ( Douyin )

### 3.3 Act as attributive

( 1 ) Let's get a taste of the fruit assassin. ( Sina microblog )

( 2 ) Before summer, the price of watermelon assassins is terrifying. ( Sina microblog )

### 3.4 Separate sentences

( 1 ) Cilantro Assassin! ( Sina microblog )

( 2 ) Beauty assassin! ( Sina microblog )

( 3 ) Nail assassin! ( Sina microblog )

## 4. Pragmatic characteristics

### 4.1 Simplicity

One of the laws of language development is the economic principle of language. Use the least words to express the most abundant Meaning. Before the “X” assassin, if we wanted to express this kind of meaning, we would have to use a long paragraph of text, cumbersome and troublesome. After the appearance of “X” assassin, we can use the language form of brief introduction to achieve the subjective evaluation function, which can save time and effort<sup>[4]</sup>.

### 4.2 Productivity

Language is an open symbol system, and any language has the ability to combine scattered symbols into new combinations. So every language can combine our existing symbols into an infinite number of new phrases. “ice cream” assassin led to a series of “assassin”. Beyond the “Fruit assassin”、“Nut assassin”、“Nail assassin”. Corresponding to the construction “X” assassin, there is a new construction “X” guard. Such as : “Ice cream guard”、“Clipping guard”、“Armor guard” This means that the price is clearly marked and consumers are not deceived. This side shows the productivity of the construction<sup>[5]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusions

This paper makes a simple analysis of the construction meaning, the grammatical functions of variable and invariant terms, and the pragmatic features of the “X”assassin. We find that the first meaning is that someone has been victimized by something that is later realized to be derogatory or ironic and the second is that someone has been complimented or praised. Someone stands out in some way and is a big hit. But Internet buzzwords are often short-lived. As for the future, let's wait and see<sup>[6]</sup>.

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