NER stands for Named Entity Recognition. It is a subtask of information extraction that seeks to locate and classify named entities in text into predefined categories such as person names, organizations, locations, medical codes, etc.

The goal of NER is to automatically identify and extract structured information from unstructured text data, such as news articles, social media posts, and web pages. This can help researchers, businesses, and organizations to extract relevant information from large amounts of text data, such as customer feedback, news articles, or financial reports.

NER typically involves a combination of rule-based and machine learning approaches. Rule-based approaches use pre-defined patterns and rules to identify named entities, while machine learning approaches use statistical models to learn patterns and associations between words and entities from annotated data.

There are several popular NER tools and libraries available, such as Stanford NER, spaCy, NLTK, and AllenNLP, which can be used to perform NER on text data in various languages.