In the context of Natural Language Processing (NLP), "Speech Recognition" (often spelled as "Speech Recognization" due to a common misspelling) refers to the technology that enables computers and software systems to interpret and process human speech into text. It is a subset of NLP that deals specifically with understanding and transcribing spoken language, as opposed to written text analysis and generation, which encompasses the broader field of NLP.

Speech recognition systems utilize acoustic and linguistic modeling to recognize and convert speech signals into text. These systems typically involve several key components and processes:

1. **Acoustic Modeling**: This involves representing the relationship between linguistic units of speech and audio signals. Models are trained to recognize the sounds or phonemes that make up speech in any given language.

2. **Language Modeling**: This component predicts the likelihood of a sequence of words. It helps in understanding context, managing homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled differently), and improving the accuracy of the transcription by using knowledge of the language's structure and grammar.

3. **Signal Processing**: The speech signal is first converted from analog to digital form, and then various signal processing techniques are applied to enhance the signal quality and extract relevant features for recognition.

4. **Decoding**: This step involves mapping the processed audio signals to textual information. The decoder uses the acoustic and language models to find the most likely text transcription for a given segment of speech.

Speech recognition technologies have seen significant improvements with the advent of deep learning and artificial intelligence, enhancing their accuracy and making them more adaptable to different languages, accents, dialects, and noisy environments. These technologies are widely used in various applications, including virtual assistants (like Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant), automated transcription services, voice-controlled devices, and accessibility tools for individuals with disabilities.