Genuine and pure poetry as a refined expression of feelings at an extraordinary level of consciousness touches man, soul and Nature to the core. The Post-World War American Poetry has made great strides in world poetry with its innovative and new 'isms', poetic trends and philosophy revolutionizing the dichotomy of form and content. The experimental modern American poetry of Ezra Pound, T.S.Eliot, Stevens has excited not only American readers but outsiders as well. The Post-War poetry tries to emancipate America from its socio-cultural chaos and develop it into a nation with vigor, new consciousness and thinking.

Shedding of hackneyed conventions and bold experimentation characterize the most significant current in the twentieth century American poetry. Imagism, the characteristic trend in the Post-War period, said to be the epitome of experimentation, greatly influenced most of the American poets of the twentieth century, both traditional and experimental alike. There is an effective presentation of American tradition and culture and deep concern for human values in modern poetry the lacking of which is lamented by William Cullen Bryant in 'Our Poetry in its Relation to our Age and Country' (1825) : "Our country is decried as peculiarly
barren of the materials of poetry, it wants the association of tradition ... it wants the national superstitions".1

Modernity in the twentieth century American poetry is reflected in the abandonment of the grandiose rhetoric for a more flexible and colloquialism. To poets like Frost, poetry is a pleasure game with words and thought. They are mainly concerned with humanity, and human values and their poetry is lyrical, impulsive, symbolic and at the same time modern by being realistically metaphorical.

The present study entitled Humanism in Post-War American Poetry attempts to explore the new voices and trends in Modern American Poetry in general and the six poets - T.S.Eliot, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Robert Lowell, Sylvia Plath and Robert Penn Warren in particular with a focus on their vision of life and their humanistic sentiments. The dissertation also makes a humble attempt to other aspects of modern American poetry like Realism, Confessionalism, Modernism as far as its concerns are human and about the dignity of man, and sociological.

In this connection, I feel it my bounden duty to express my deep sense of gratitude to those who have helped me in my humble endeavour. First of all, I wish to pay my

humble salutations to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Prasanthi Nilayam, at His Divine Lotus Feet, for his affectionate blessings and spiritual guidance in undertaking my task. Secondly, I profusely thank my Research Supervisor, Dr. S.A. Khayyoom, Reader, Department of English, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur for all the encouragement and benevolent guidance in this literary pursuit.

My sincere thanks are also due to Prof. Isaac Sequeria, Academic Fellow, American Studies Research Centre (ASRC), Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad for his valuable suggestions on Confessional Poetry and Modernism.

I am highly thankful to the library staff, ASRC, Hyderabad for making the books and periodicals available to me for carrying out my research programme.

Lastly, my hearty thanks go to Mr. P. Lokanna, the typist for his meticulous computer typing of the thesis.

(N.NARAYAN RAO)
LECTURER IN ENGLISH
(RETIRED)