Trends and Movements in Modern Poetry:

Throughout history, there have been hundreds of major and minor poetic movements and trends. The innovation and experimentations on the form and style of poetry in the Modern period arouses wide attention of poets of different schools and as a result, many poetical movements have emerged during the period. Some of the major movements that greatly shaped and influence modern poetry are discussed below:

Imagism:

Imagism was a major Modernist movement in poetry led by poets of both England and America in the early 20th century. This school of poetry flourished in England and America between 1912 and 1914. Ezra Pound, the founder of the school, later developed his idea into three Imagist poetic principles. Imagism emphasized the virtue of clarity, compression and precision of language. They used sharp language and embrace imagery. The movement reached its climax in 1914 when Pound published both in England and America the anthology of imagist poetry entitled Des Imagists. The anthology contained poems by Pound, H. D. Richard Aldington, F. S. Flint, Amy Lowell, James Joyce and William Carol Williams. When Pound found Vorticism to be more appealing in 1914, Amy Lowell took over the leadership of the movement.

Surrealism:

Surrealism is one of the chief channels of 20th century Modernism. It is a modernist movement in the arts attempted to express the workings of the unconscious by fantastic imagery and incongruous juxtaposition of content. The movement grew out of Dadaism, was orchestrated by Andre Breton, the French poet and critic. Depending on its proponents, the movement drew on the troubled politics of the inter-war years, the dream theories of Jung and Freud, studies of the occult and irrational. The Surrealist sought to represent the true process of thought and true reality. Though painting is the main arena for surrealism to show its talent, it also included important poets and novelists. W. H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes, Robert Bly, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Duncan etc.

Symbolism:

Symbolism is a major literary movement of the 19th century based in France. It is often associated with other labels—decadence, aestheticism, neo-romanticism, hereticism, modernism and imagism. It is the usage of literary historians. Symbolism designates specifically a group of French writers, which included Charles Baudelaire, Arthur Rimbaud, Paul Verlaine, Stephane Mallarme and Paul Valery. The French symbolists exploited an order of private symbols in poetry of rich suggestiveness rather than explicit signification. This technique had an immense influence throughout Europe and in England and America on poets like Arthur Symons, Ernest Dowson, W. B. Yeats, Ezra Pound, Dylan Thomas, Hart Crane, Wallace Stevens etc. In the decades after World War I was a notable era of symbolism in literature. Many major modern poets exploit symbols some of which are drawn from religious and esoteric traditions and some are invented.
Symbolism was the poetry of disgusted and sometimes disillusioned idealists who sought in poetry an escape from the ugliness, hypocrisy and rapacity of the 19th century industrialized society. In contrast to the materialist, utilitarian and practical view of the world, symbolist poetry emphasized an ideal world beyond the material and sought an ideal language to express that world.

**Objectivism:**

Objectivism is a term to designate a loose-knit group of second generation Modernists who emerged in 1930s mainly in America. The Objectivists were highly influenced by Ezra Pound and William Carol Williams. Objectivism is developed out of Imagism. The Objectivist presents concrete objects not in order to convey abstract ideas but for the sake of their sensuous qualities. It reflects the poet’s primary interest in composing a structure of relationships apprehensible as a whole, rather than in offering interpretations of experience. The Objectivists also like to use language more literally than figuratively. They produced a considerable diversity of styles and were highly influential for later generations of writers working in the tradition of Modernist.