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## The Many Lives of an Extraordinary Aboriginal Woman: A Re-citing of the Self



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**Abstract :**

Life-writing or self-narration has been a longstanding practice in the history of mankind. As part of the humanist tradition, life narratives have served to centralize and subjectivize the individual, legitimizing the authority of the author to narrate lived experiences. Traditionally, only lives of eminent personalities were considered worthy of narration. In contemporary discourses, any life with its peculiar interconnections can be written into existence. The twentieth century literary arena of Australia witnessed the efflorescence of autobiographies by Australian Aboriginal writers, especially the women writers, giving powerful expression to their thoughts, feelings, and their reactions and responses to racial segregations. They deliberately use the autobiographical form as a forum for public protest against the white's racial discrimination, and as a means of communicating with his/her own identity and subjectivity as well as with that of his/her community and race. The auto/biography of Isabel Flick captures the different phases of her life and the formation of an identity that gives both meaning and purpose to her life, and with which she actualises her own individual, racial and social pasts and beings, and that of the Aboriginal people in Australia, taking up in the process issues of identity, segregation and marginalization.

**Keywords:**

Autobiography, Australian Aboriginals, discrimination, marginalization, resistance, identity, Erikson, Isabel Flick