CONCLUSION

Contemporary Aboriginal literature of Australia echoes with the tensions, denials and conflicts stemming from prevailing structural imbalances that are partly a legacy of colonial rule. Aboriginal literature portrays the marginalization of native cultures and the wounds of identity and belonging, during the colonial contact, trauma and transformation. The works of the native writers function as tools to convey the writers’ fervent protest and resistance. Native writers use literature as a vehicle to analyze, determine, process, understand and assert their identity. The texts selected for the study reinforce the impression that indigenous identity discourse has become increasingly popular and diversified in the postmodern era. Anita Heiss remarks:

Aboriginal writers use literature as a means of defining themselves, as well as a tool to defend our right to our identity. Literature is used to reclaim pride in the First Nation status, to explain the diversity of Aboriginal experience, and to demonstrate the realities and complexities of being Aboriginal in twenty-first century. (A Companion to Australian Literature since 1900. 41)

Aboriginal writers as torch-bearers of Aboriginality have celebrated the intrinsic worth of Aboriginal literature. Most of the Aboriginal writers view the correlation of socio political concerns and Aboriginal literature as an inevitable aspect. In the sphere of higher education and publication, Aboriginal literature has received universal appreciation and critical reception. They have succeeded in centralizing Aboriginality within the broader framework of Aboriginal literature. The
growing popularity for Aboriginal literature among the academic circles created opportunities for Australian native writers to consolidate Aboriginal literature.

A fundamental aspect that Aboriginal literature addressed is the issue of Aboriginal identity, which is symbolically significant to their individuality espoused by literature in geo-political terms. Aboriginal identity and Aboriginal solidarity unified the Aboriginals. These concepts have also become comprehensive subjects for Aboriginal literature. It is also learnt that the content of Aboriginal subjectivity is formed by the realm of symbolic politics.

Representing the nation and redefining the history are the chief motives of indigenous authors. Bruce Pascoe is not an exception. He manages well to weave important facts and events into his narration, for example, Aboriginal deaths in custody, Christian missions, Aboriginal rights, the Stolen Generations, colonization, mining, the case of terra nullius and other important aspects of the land. He endows positive value to the harshness of the land and associates recognition to the Aboriginal culture. He clearly states that attempts at civilizing the indigenous population are merely a different means of destruction. In many respects Aboriginal background and influences are obvious in his writing.

The difficult concept of Aboriginality is brilliantly grasped by Bruce Pascoe. The effects of the contradictory experiences of Aboriginality are evident in his writings. The idea of Aboriginality is inseparable from the Aboriginal identity and identity with the native land. It’s a sense of belonging to ones homeland. He uses his writing as a tool to help non-Indigenous people recognize the value of Aboriginal
Australia. He is proud of his Aboriginal identity and his ability to write the unwritten in the globalized era obviously marks him as an ignited writer.

The research work began with the theme of recurrence; and ends with the idea of presence. Indigenous Australian literature is no longer marginalized and not a mystery to the non-Aboriginal reader. There has been a sea-change in indigenous writing, from a resistance literature to a powerful voice in world literatures. It is a fact that the wider Australian and international community has began to recognize and respect the uniqueness of Aboriginal culture. Indigenous authors have created a niche for themselves at the world stage by producing exceptional works of literature.

Bruce Pascoe is an initiator of an unexpected new reign of terrific native writing. He investigates the unexplored history of Australia. He manages well to weave important facts and events into his writing. He is remarkable for his originality for the time in his portrayal and pride in the way of Aboriginal life. His novels offer great variety in their themes, subjects, and settings - but what they have in common is his use of outstanding language, his deeply psychological character portraits, and the stunning incidents of his stories. He is one of the foremost indigenous novelists whose fiction has been regarded as an important contribution to the indigenous literature.

Pascoe’s Australia is a country of infinite distances, unimaginable age and mystery, and the grandeur of this landscape is set off against the materialistic concerns of the white settlers. The material of Bruce Pascoe’s works is specifically Australian, but his treatment to the works has a largeness of vision not limited to any
one country. In fact, it derives motivation from other native cultures and literatures. Australian landscape is the metaphorical inspiration for him to frame his works.

Bruce Pascoe saw Australia as a country of diversified rich cultures and great traditions, which are the recurrent themes, explored in his novels. His conception of Aboriginal Australia, reflected in his works is the product of his real experiences of the country. His deepest concern is to deconstruct the history and Aboriginal identity created by the whites and his unending endeavor is to reconstruct the misinterpreted Aboriginal history and identity. Australian landscape and indigenous history introduced a new continent to world literature, as well as a new perspective on national identity for native Australians. The legacy of Aboriginal story telling lies in Bruce Pascoe. His commitment to his race and people initiated novels of great depth and dedication.

*****